BERSERK

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22

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

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BERSERK ㉒

BY
KENTARO
MIURA
三浦建太郎

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CONTENTS

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE RENT WORLD 5

REUNION ON THE HILL OF SWORDS 27

THE BEAST SWORDSMAN VS.
THE BLACK SWORDSMAN 47

UNCHANGED... 69

PROLOGUE TO THE WAR 91

FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK 109

WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 1 131

WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 2 153

OF SNOW AND FLAME, FIRST ACT 175

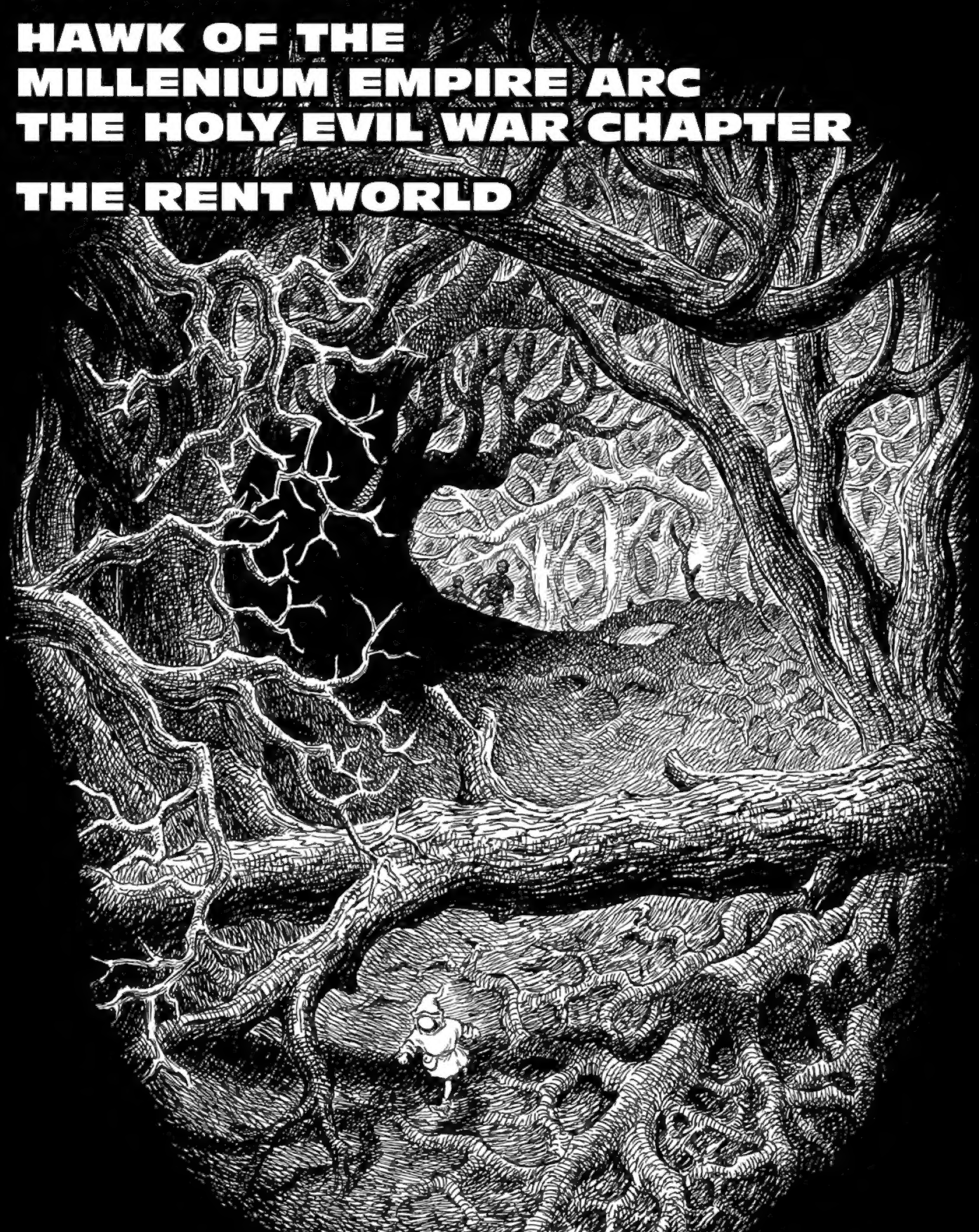
OF SNOW AND FLAME, FINAL ACT 197

ほころぶ世界

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC

THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE RENT WORLD


IT IS SAID IT WAS THE CHILDREN...
...WHO FIRST BEGAN TO NOTICE...

HOLD UP, NICO! *I'LL* BE THE ONE IN TROUBLE IF YOU GET LOST!
DON'T I ALWAYS TELL YOU NOT TO GO OFF INTO THE FOREST?!
SO DON'T CRY TO ME IF YOU GET EATEN BY WOLVES! AND LATELY THERE'S EVEN KUSHAN...!
FAIRIES.
EH...?
BIG BROTHER.
I SAW...
...FAIRIES.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!
THAT'S WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO BRING THIS RUNT ALONG!
LAY OFF HIM, TOMA.
BUT YOU KNOW, I KIND OF UNDERSTAND WHY NICO GETS THAT WAY.
HUH?
IT'S KIND OF LIKE...
...DON'T THINGS SEEM *WEIRD* LATELY?

*FX: WHEP

HUH? YOU TOO?
OH!
THEY DO, THEY DO!
WHAT DOES?
IT'S LIKE...
...I CAN'T REALLY EXPLAIN IT.
YEAH, YEAH.
?
DON'T YOU FEEL SOMETHING, TOO?
......
WE'VE BEEN COMING TO THIS FOREST FOREVER...
...BUT WAS IT ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
LIKE WHAT...?
WELL...
...I GET THE FEELING I FELT THIS WAY WHEN I WAS LITTLE, TOO...
SO WHAT IS IT?
WELL, IT'S JUST LIKE...

...A FOREST IN A DREAM OR SOMETHING...

*FX: WSS WSS WSS

D-DID YOU JUST HEAR SOMETHING? SOMEONE LAUGHING...?
C-CUT IT OUT!
FAIRIES.
THE WIND ...
IT HAS TO BE THE WIND...

*FX: WSS WSS

*FX: WSS WSS WSS

*FX: HEE HEE HEE

*FX: HEE HEE HEE HEE

*FX: HEE HEE HEE

*FX: HEHEHEH

*FX: HM HM HM

*FX: HEE HEE

*FX: HEEHEEHEE

*FX: GEH HEH

......!!

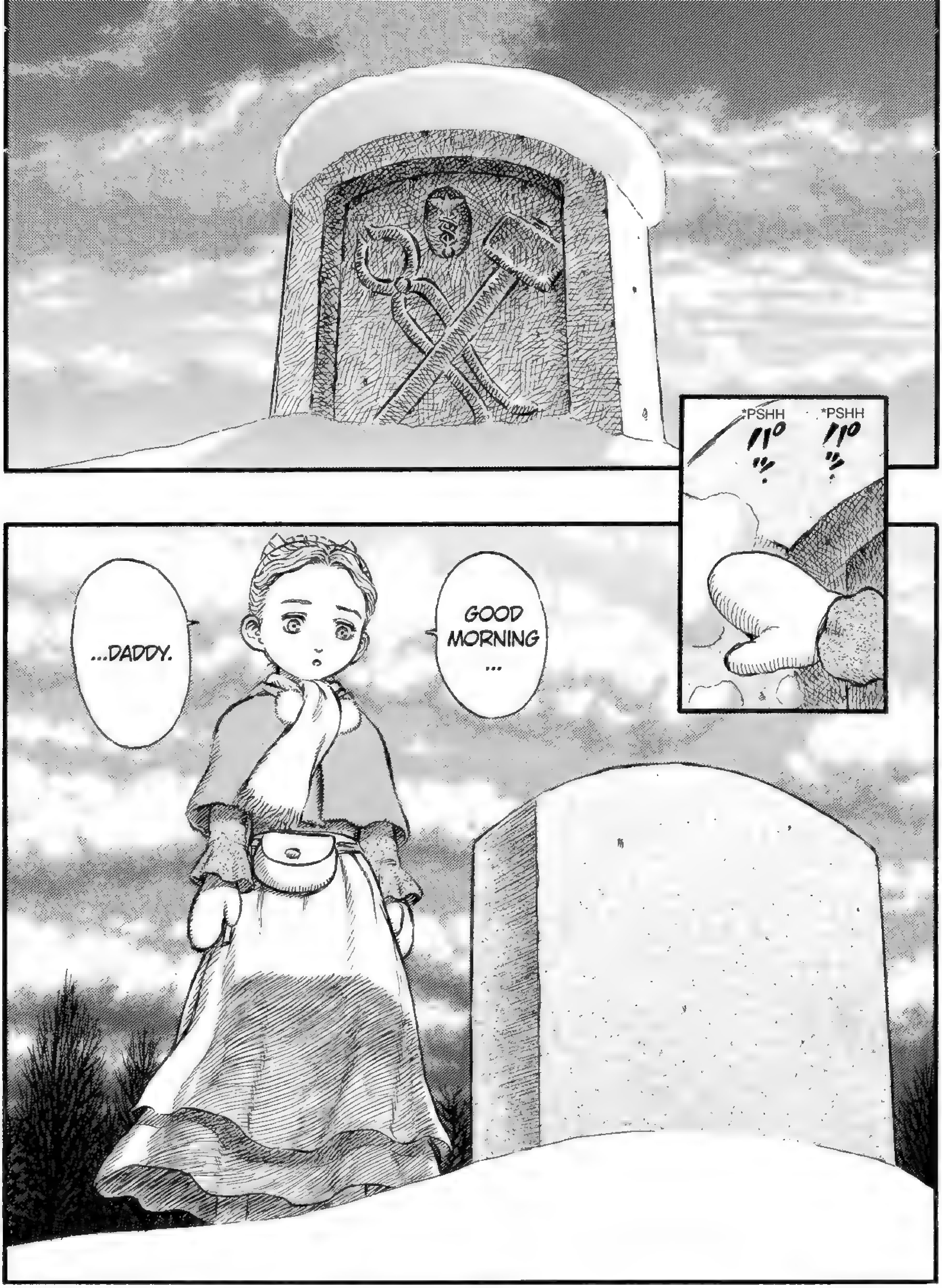
*(sounds of laughter)

*FX: (silence)
IT...
IT STOPPED...
*FX: FWOOMP FWOOMP
N...
NOW WHAT?!
*FWOOMP
*FWOOMP
*FWOOMP
*FX: WSHH
BIG BROTHER, LOOK!!
*FX: WSHHH
!

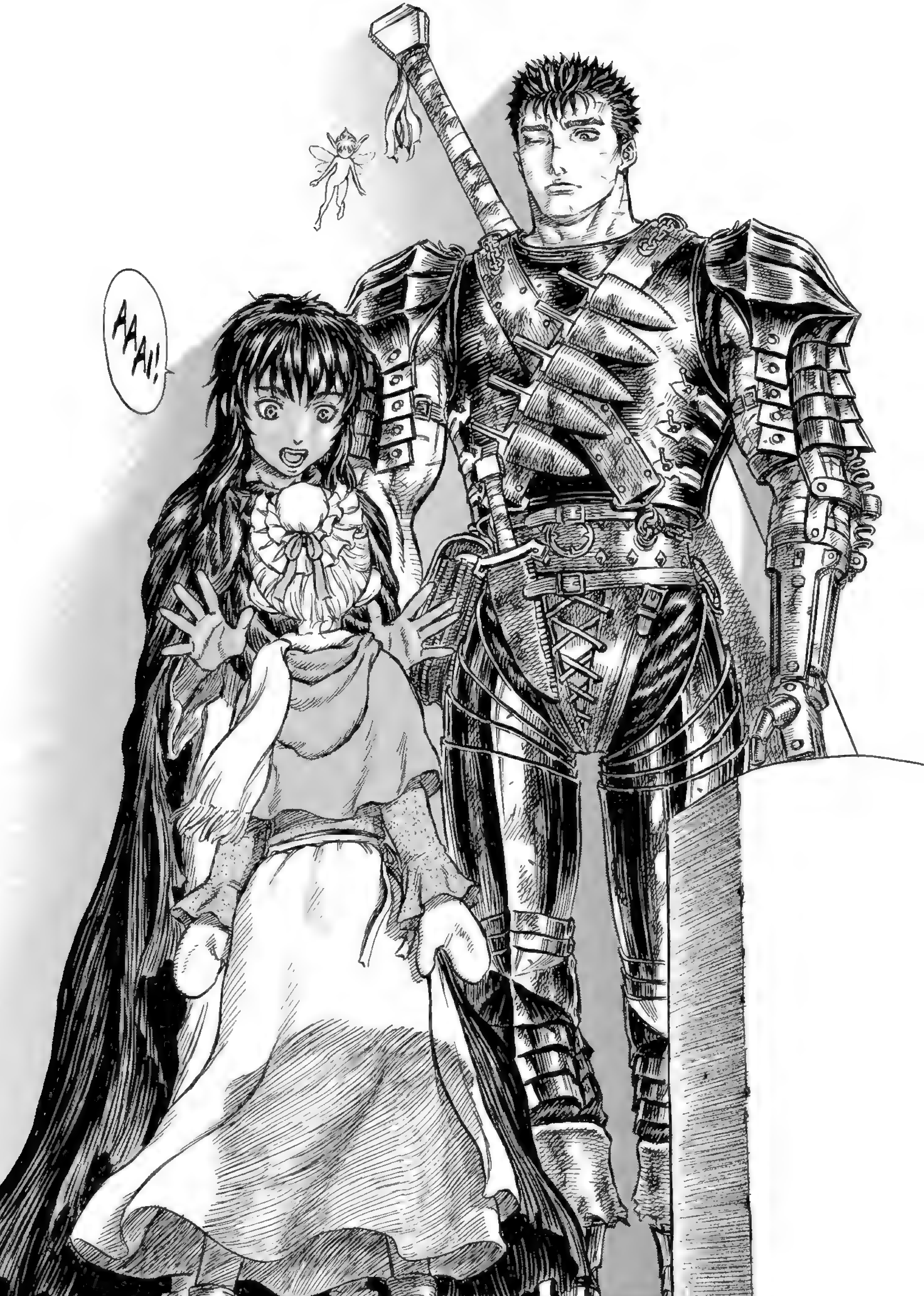
WHMMM

...THE HOLLOWS OF TREES, THE GROUND BENEATH GRAVES, THE WHISPERS OF WINDS, THE LULL BETWEEN WAVES, THE DEPTHS OF WELLS, THE DARKNESS OF ATTICS...
...SECRETLY, AT SOME POINT, THEIR SILENCE...
...CEASED TO BE MERE SILENCE.
UWAHHHH!
AN EVIL FOREST SPIRIT...!!
MONSTER!
SECRETLY...

LIKE A FOLK TALE TOLD BY ELDERS TO CHILDREN...
...AS IF IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN THERE ALL ALONG...
...SOMETHING SURELY BREATHED WITHIN THE SILENCE.
HEE
HEE


*PSHH
*PSHH
GOOD MORNING ...
...DADDY.
!

*FX: KRNCH


AAAI!

WE'RE BACK.
YO.
OOOAH!
GUTS...
CASCA...
ガバッ
OH!
...
うわあぁ
......
あぁぁぁ…
I GUESS...
...WE TOOK TOO LONG...

*FX: UWAHHH

*FX: HUG

*FX: AHHHH

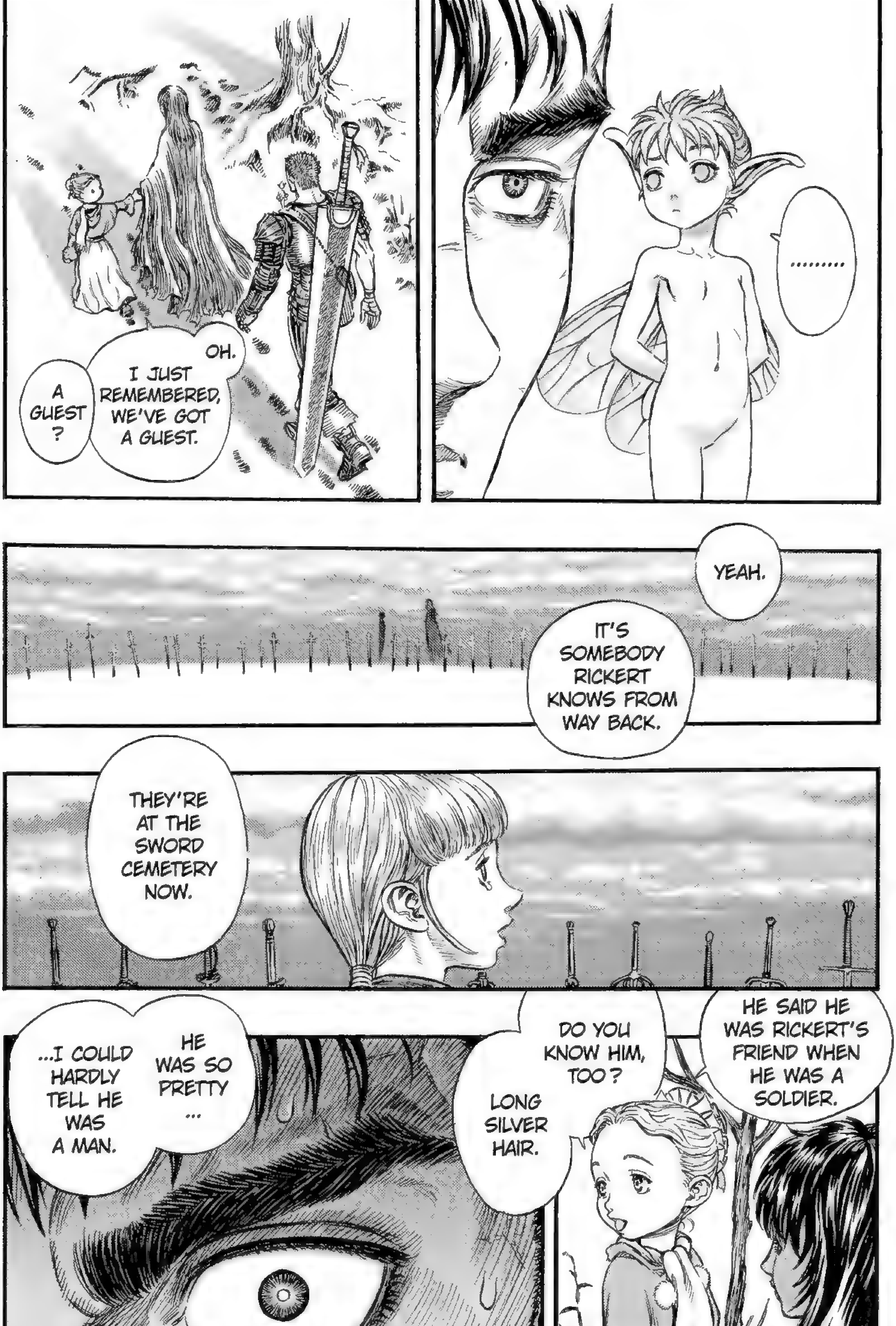
IT WAS SOON AFTER YOU LEFT, GUTS.
I'M SORRY.
NAHHH.
DADDY SAID THAT ...
...HE WAS LUCKY ENOUGH JUST TO SEE YOU BEFORE HE DIED.
BESIDES ...
...HE DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SEE HIS FACE ONCE HE WAS GONE.
BUT THANK GOODNESS!
YOU FOUND CASCA, AND IT WAS MY FAULT SHE GOT LOST IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SOOO ...
... WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW?
YOU WON'T LEAVE HER AGAIN, RIGHT?

LET'S ALL...
LET'S ALL LIVE TOGETHER.
HERE.
AS LONG AS YOU'RE HERE...
...EVEN CASCA WILL BE FINE!
WE CAN EVEN ALL FIX UP THE CAVE AND MAKE IT MORE LIKE A HOUSE SO IT'S EASIER TO LIVE IN!

I'M SURE IF YOU'RE WITH HER AND TREAT HER WELL...
...SHE WON'T RUN OFF ANYMORE.
....
THAT'S TRUE.
!
R... REALLY?
REALLY, REALLY?!
IT'S A DEAL!!
Y-YEAH...
CAN YA MAKE THAT PROMISE SO EASILY?
ACTUALLY, I ONLY HALF MEAN IT.
やったあ
*YAYYY!

JUST AS I GOT HER BACK...NO, IN THE MIDDLE OF SWINGING MY SWORD TO GET HER BACK...
...I...SAW HIM...
THE WAY HE APPEARED BEFORE ME... HE WASN'T A DEMON.
HE LOOKED SO HUMAN.
AS IF HE'D BEEN STOLEN FROM THE PAST, THE WAY HE USED TO BE.
THE INSTANT I SAW HIM...
...I'D FORGOTTEN MY URGE TO KILL.

AND THAT...
...CAN'T BE.
IT WAS AN AIMLESS JOURNEY...
...RELYING JUST ON STRANGE RUMORS AND THE SUBTLE SENSATIONS OF THE BRAND...
WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING WHERE HE WAS...
WANDERING AND PUSHING THROUGH THE DEAD SPIRITS, STALKING HIS SHADOW WHEN HE WASN'T EVEN IN THIS WORLD...
BUT NOW HE'S IN THE SAME WORLD AS ME!!
ON THE SAME GROUND WHERE I WALK!!
WHERE MY SWORD CAN REACH!!!


....
OH. I JUST REMEMBERED, WE'VE GOT A GUEST.
A GUEST?
YEAH.
IT'S SOMEBODY RICKERT KNOWS FROM WAY BACK.
THEY'RE AT THE SWORD CEMETERY NOW.
HE SAID HE WAS RICKERT'S FRIEND WHEN HE WAS A SOLDIER.
DO YOU KNOW HIM, TOO?
LONG SILVER HAIR.
HE WAS SO PRETTY...
...I COULD HARDLY TELL HE WAS A MAN.

MORE LIKE SOMEONE OUT OF A FAIRY TALE...

I REALLY STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
*FX: ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF
THAT DAY...
...WHEN NO ONE BUT GUTS AND CASCA CAME BACK...
JUDEAU.
CORKUS.
PIPPIN.
NOT ONE...
...OF THEM.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY.
GUTS WON'T TALK ABOUT IT, AND I'M AFRAID TO ASK...
*ZHF!
I'D THOUGHT...
...THAT EVERY-THING...
...HAD ENDED.
HAD GONE AWAY.
BUT...
...YOU'RE ALIVE...
...AND HERE WE ARE AGAIN.
*FX: ZHF ZHF ZHF ZHF
HAHH
HAHH

ズザザザ
*ZHFFFF
GUTS ! !
ハ
*HAHHH
ハ
*HAHHH

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

REUNION ON THE HILL OF SWORDS

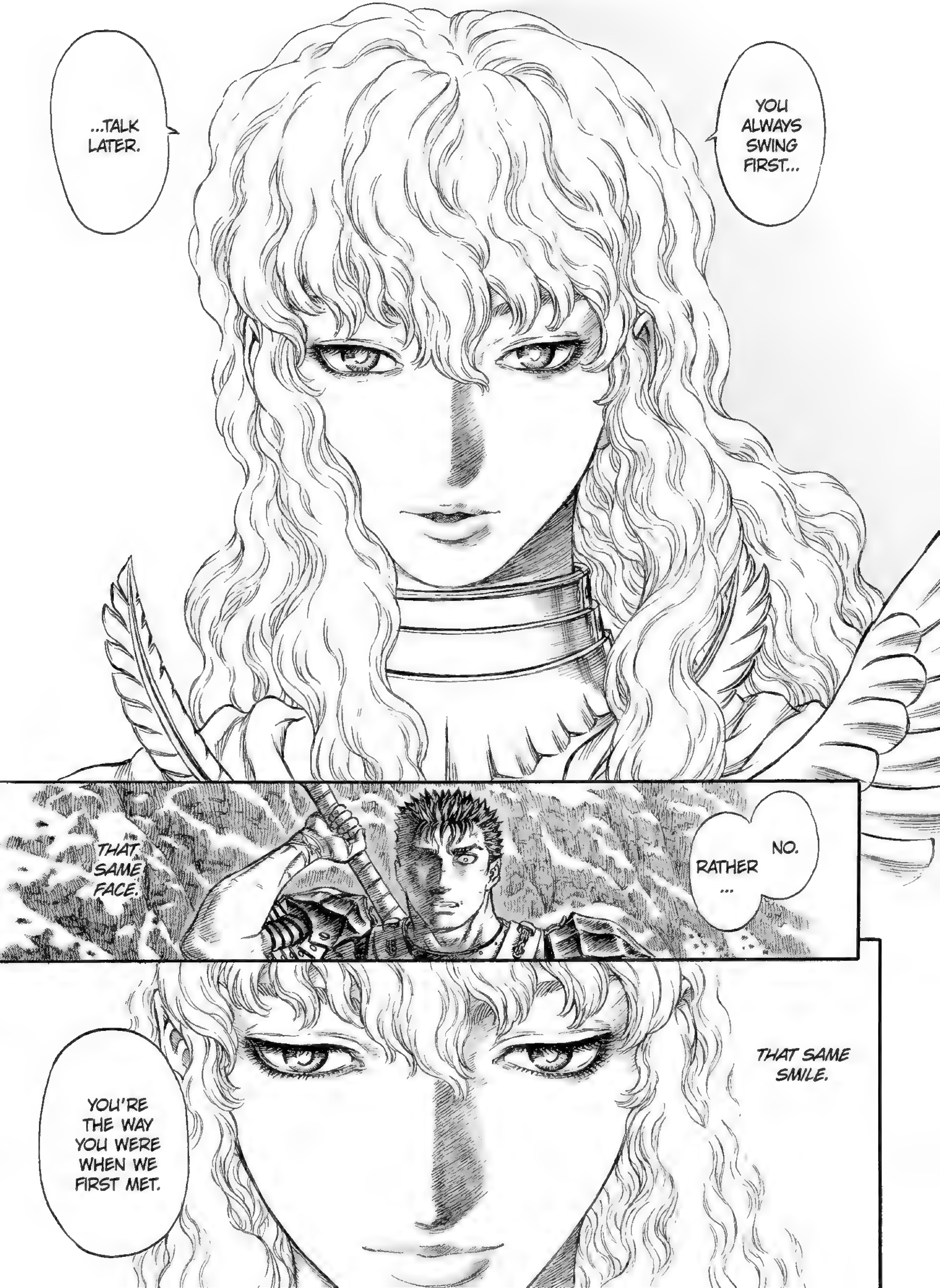
剣の丘の再会

*LUNGE
?!
GUTS?!
W-WAIT A MINUTE...!!

*TACKLE
MOVE, RICKERT !!
I WON'T! WHY'RE YOU ATTACKING ALL OF A SUDDEN ...?!
YOU'RE DEAD SERIOUS !!
HE'S GRIFFITH ...!!
HE'S OUR GRIFFITH !!
...!!
SO WHY ?!

THAT...
THAT'S NOT...
...THE GRIFFITH YOU KNOW ANYMORE!!
?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
JUST GET OUT OF THE WAY!!
NO!! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
YOU NEVER CHANGE.

*FX: SHLPP


YOU ALWAYS SWING FIRST...
...TALK LATER.
NO. RATHER...
THAT SAME FACE.
THAT SAME SMILE.
YOU'RE THE WAY YOU WERE WHEN WE FIRST MET.

DON'T TALK...
...TO ME IN THAT SAME VOICE !!
YOU ...!!
WHAT THE HELL'D YOU COME HERE FOR?!
TO SEE YOU.
ぐっ...
IT WAS FAR TOO TURBULENT AT THAT TOWER.
THERE WAS NO CHANCE TO SPEAK WITH YOU ALONE.

*FX: GH

THIS PLACE SEEMS MORE FITTING FOR US...
THE BAND OF THE HAWK...
...ASSEMBLING ONCE MORE.
DON'T YOU DARE SAY THAT NAME!!

I CAME HERE TO KNOW FOR CERTAIN...
...WHETHER ANYTHING WILL SHAKE MY HEART.
WHILE I STAND BEFORE YOU IN THIS NEW BODY OF FLESH...

...IT SEEMS...
...I AM...
...FREE.

AGHH!
*SHOVE
YOU MEAN...
*WSHHH
...AFTER WHAT YOU DID...
...AFTER ALL THOSE YOU BETRAYED...
...YOU DON'T...
YOU DON'T FEEL ANYTHING ?!

I'LL NOT...
...BETRAY MY DREAM.
THAT IS ALL.

*WHOM
*SHAANG
ギュ。。
*FX: SHMM

WHA--?!
!
ギャリッ
*KREENG
LONG TIME...
...BLACK SWORDSMAN!!
ギャリリッ
*KREEENG

ZODD ?!
ヒュウウウウ
*WHOOOOOO

OO...
?
WHAT'S WRONG, CASCA?
THIS PRESENCE...
...
AUUU...

*FX: CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

THE BEAST SWORDSMAN VS. THE BLACK SWORDSMAN

獣剣士対黒い剣士

*KRRRNK
ガリ。ガリ。
ガリ。ガリ。
*PUSH
*PUSH
HE STOPPED A BLOW FROM GUTS' BIG SWORD ?!
WHO THE HELL IS HE...?!

YOU DID WELL TO SURVIVE, DESPITE MY PREDICTION !!
IT PLEASES ME, BOY!!!
*WHAM
*LUNGE
*ZHAAAA
*FX: GROOARR

*WHOP
*FLIP
*WHMM
ズザザザッ
*ZHZHAAA
*VNNN
*WHOMM

*BDING
*TWIRL
*SLASH
*DWOMM
*GOWNG

*GYNN
*GANG
*VYNN
*VOMM
*DONNG

ギュルルル
*FLIP
バッ
*LEAP
ザザッ
*ZHAAF
*FX: HAHH HAHH
*FX: GRRRRRR
ゴルルル…
A...
I CAN'T TELL WHAT'S GOING ON.
AMAZING !!!

MAGNIFICENT!! AS A HUMAN YOU'VE DONE WELL TO ATTAIN SUCH DISCIPLINE!!
I WANTED TO CROSS SWORDS WITH YOU AGAIN THIS WAY, NOW THAT YOU'VE LIVED THROUGH SUCH CARNAGE!!
WHAT IS THIS?
WHY'RE YOU WITH GRIFFITH?
MOVE ASIDE!!
MY BUSINESS IS WITH HIM!!

WORDS LACK ELEGANCE!!
FORCE YOUR WAY PAST!!
*FX: ROHHH
おおあっ

*WHOM
*GYOWNNG
HE STRUCK IT DOWN!!
*VOMM
HE EVADED?! HE'S GOT INHUMAN REFLEXES!!!
*WHIP

*WHONG
*FX: GRRRN
WHAT SWORD STRENGTH !!
*FX: STRAIN STRAIN
*FX: TREMBLE TREMBLE
*WHAM WHAM WHAM
HE REALLY IS A GODDAMN MONSTER !!
ANY OTHER SWORD WOULD SHATTER !!
*FX: SHSHF
I'M DEAD IF I STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE !!!
*SHOVE

*STAGGER
ヨロ‥
*VYNN
ビュ‥
ズム
*ZNN
*BCHING
バチ
*SHRIP
ビッ
*SHNN
*WHOM
*SHRAP
バ‥

MY HEAD COULD BE SPLIT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!!
EVERY CLASH RATTLES MY BONES!! THESE AIN'T STRIKES YOU CAN JUST WARD OFF!!
IT'S THE SAME AS THAT OTHER TIME!!
BUT...
...I CAN FIGHT.
I'VE STRUGGLED THROUGH COUNTLESS NIGHTS...
...SEARCHING FOR HIM, AND NOW...

...ALL YOU ARE IS IN MY WAY!!!

INCREDIBLE...!!
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS, EVEN ON THE BATTLEFIELD!!
HE'S GROWN STRONGER THAN I COULD IMAGINE!!
THE WAY HE HANDLES THAT MASSIVE SWORD!!
BUT THAT WRATH...
IS HIS RANCOR DIRECTED AT GRIFFITH? WHY?!
*DSSH
*FX: ZGING
HNN!
*GRAB
!
THAT'S MY--

*JING
*VSSSH
KHAH!
HE'S TRYIN' TO END THIS!!
*FX: DOM DOM
*FX: VYNN
*GOGING
!
OH, NO! BOTH HIS HANDS ARE TIED UP!!

*KICK
*VSSH
*DOSSH
HGNN!

ザ ザ ザ ザ
*FX: SHF SHF SHF SHF
......!!
WH- WHAT A FIGHT !!
ギュ
*CLENCH
THAT MAN WAS AMAZING TO SWITCH TO USING TWO SWORDS IN THE MIDST OF ATTACK AND DEFENSE THE MOMENT HE REALIZED HIS SWORD WAS DAMAGED...!!
BUT THEN THERE'S GUTS' SPLIT-SECOND JUDGEMENT, USING A SWORD BURIED IN THE SNOW LIKE THAT THE INSTANT HE WAS DRIVEN BACK!!
DEATH...
GUTS HAS DONE UNBELIEVABLY WELL, BRAVING DEATH.

BTHUMP
THROBBING...
A FAINT THROBBING.
MY BLOOD SHOULD...
...HAVE BEEN FROZEN.
THESE FEELINGS...
...MUST BELONG TO THAT INFANT...
...THAT FUSED INTO MY VESSEL.

……
BTHUMP

HAWK OF THE
MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

UNCHANGED

聖魔戦記の章　不変

BERSERK

SPLENDID ...
A HUMAN WHO SURVIVED THE ECLIPSE...
YOUR STRENGTH HAS GOTTEN YOU THROUGH EVEN BATTLES WITH APOSTLES.
*FX: SHLK
I'D LIKE TO AMUSE MYSELF FURTHER WITH THIS SWORD DANCE OF OURS...
...BUT IT SEEMS THIS HORSE-SLAYER I STOLE FROM THE KUSHAN DOESN'T QUITE MATCH UP TO THAT DEMON-SLAYER OF YOURS.
IT IS A *SPLENDID* SWORD!!
AND *YOU* POSSESS SPLENDID TECHNIQUE!!
IT ALL STARTS HERE!!
I'VE NOT YET...
...TASTED ENOUGH!!

*GROHH
I HAVE NOT HAD MY FILL !!!
*SSST
ビリ ビリ
Z- ZODD?!
NO MISTAKE, THAT-- THAT MAN'S NOSFERATU ZODD?!
...!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?!

*FX: VNNN

*ZGANG
*SHNK
*THD THD THD
*SHOOM

*VSHH
*WHAM
*GWAHH ゴアァ…
*SPIN
*WOK

*GINNNG
GUTS ...!!
!
*WMP WMP WMP
*FX: KROK
*SHASHFF SHF SHSHF

*LUNGE
*DMP
!
*DMP
ヨロ
*WOBBLE
*DMP
*DMP

THAT'S... !
*KRUNK
*FX: BRMMMM
...MASTER GODO'S MINE...!!

ズズウゥン…
CASCA, COME BACK!
DON'T RUN OFF AGAIN!
… … !!
YOU STUPID …!!
GET BACK !!!
GUTS ? !
I JUST HEARD A RUMBLING…
ピク..
ドクン!!

*FX: DZZZNNN

*FX: FLINCH

*FX: BADUMP

OO!
OO!

ガアァ
*BDOOOOM
ゴォオオ
WHOA!
ERICA
AGHH! MONSTERRRR !!
*FX: ROHHHH

CASCA...!!
ドガッ
*FX: WHOCK
*FX: GSHANNNG
*FX: SHMP
ドッ
ガシャアァ

ドドオオンッ
*BDOOOM
ガチャッ
CAS...
ガハ
*FX: GAHA
*FX: GCHAK
CASCA!!
...!!
*FX: CLATA
ガラ。。

AH... AH...
OO...
KH...
*SHLSHH
ドッ
ク
HEE...

STO...
*SHH
ス..
ザ
ゾ
ゾ
*FX: FMP
UGEE...

ドン
*FX: WHOM
ゴルルル。
*GRRRRR
!
THAT'S ENOUGH.
LET'S GO.

ゴフウウ..
*GUFUHHH
グルッ
*TURN
W...
ヴワッ
*VWAA
!

WAIT!!
WHERE'RE YOU...?!
I TOLD YOU ONCE...
I WILL...
...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

NOTHING ...
...HAS CHANGED.

I WILL...
...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

PROLOGUE TO THE WAR

戦記の序章

NOTHING...
...HAS CHANGED.
ヴワワッ!!

*FX: VWAA

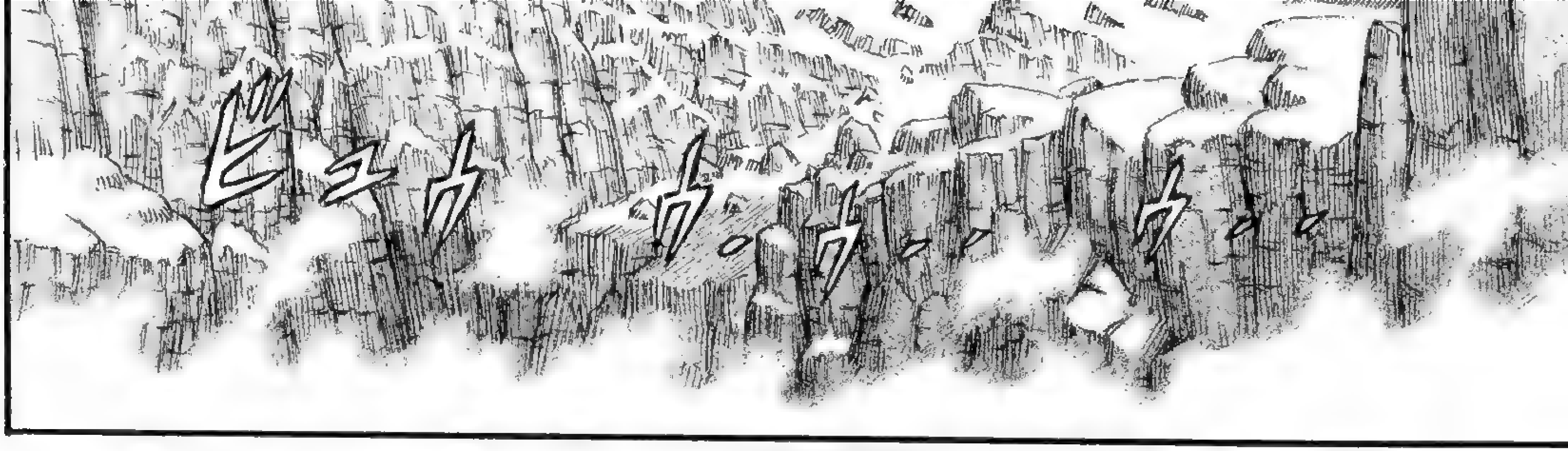
WAH!
RICKERT.
NOTHING...
...HAS ENDED.
IF YOU LEARN THE TRUTH...
...AND COME TO HATE ME, SO BE IT.
BUT...
...IF EVEN THEN...
...YOU SAY YOU CAN STILL CHASE THE DREAM...

*FX: SHMM

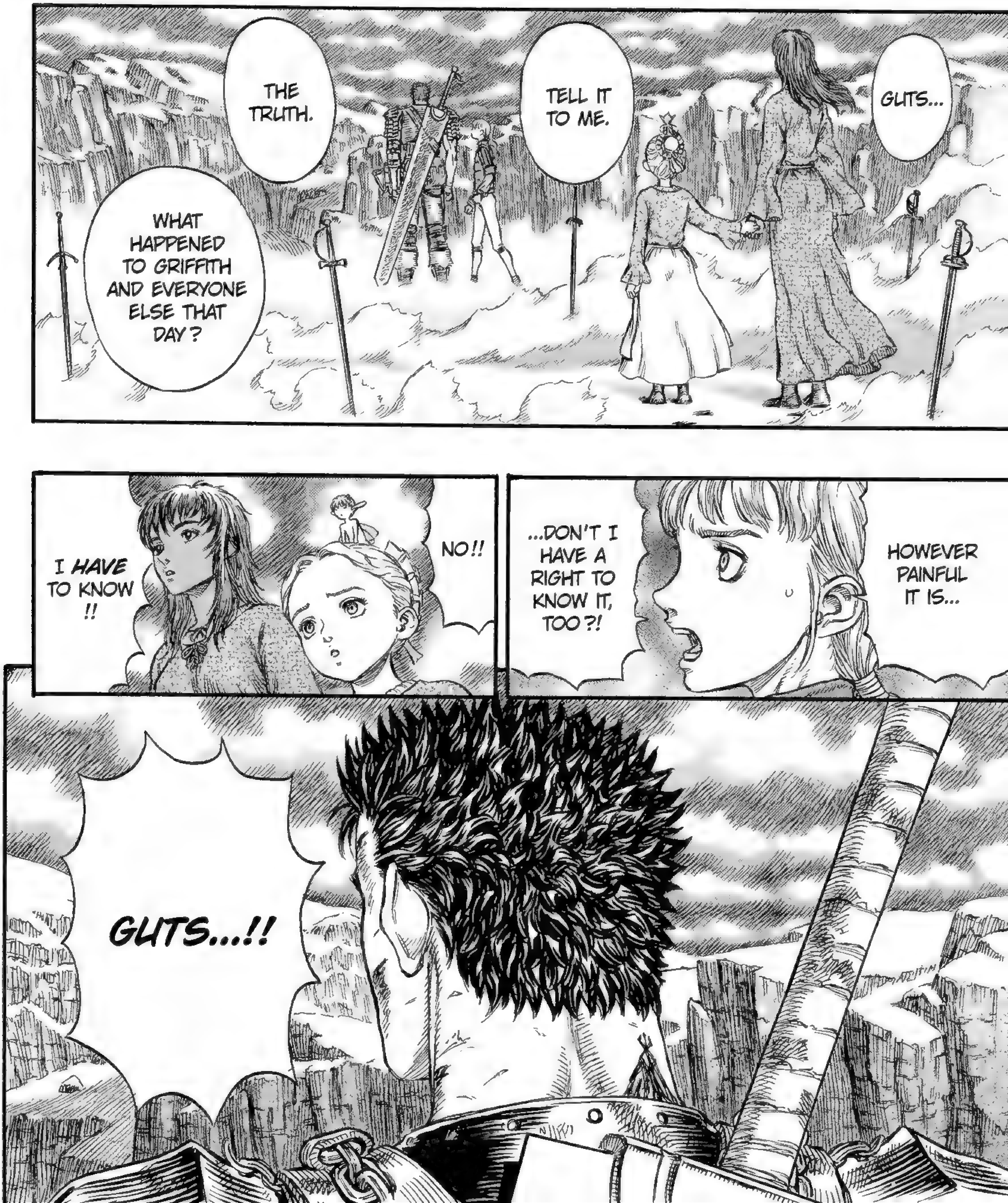
...I'LL HAVE NO CAUSE TO REFUSE YOU.
W- WAIT!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
WHAT'S THE TRUTH?!
ザ ザッ ザッ ザッ
*SHF SHF SHF SHF
*GACHNK

*THMP.
*THMP.
*THMP.
*FX: EEEE
*FX: BYVV
*FX: GYNN
GUTS, NO!!
MOVE IT, RICKERT !!
YOU SAY NOTHING'S CHANGED...!!

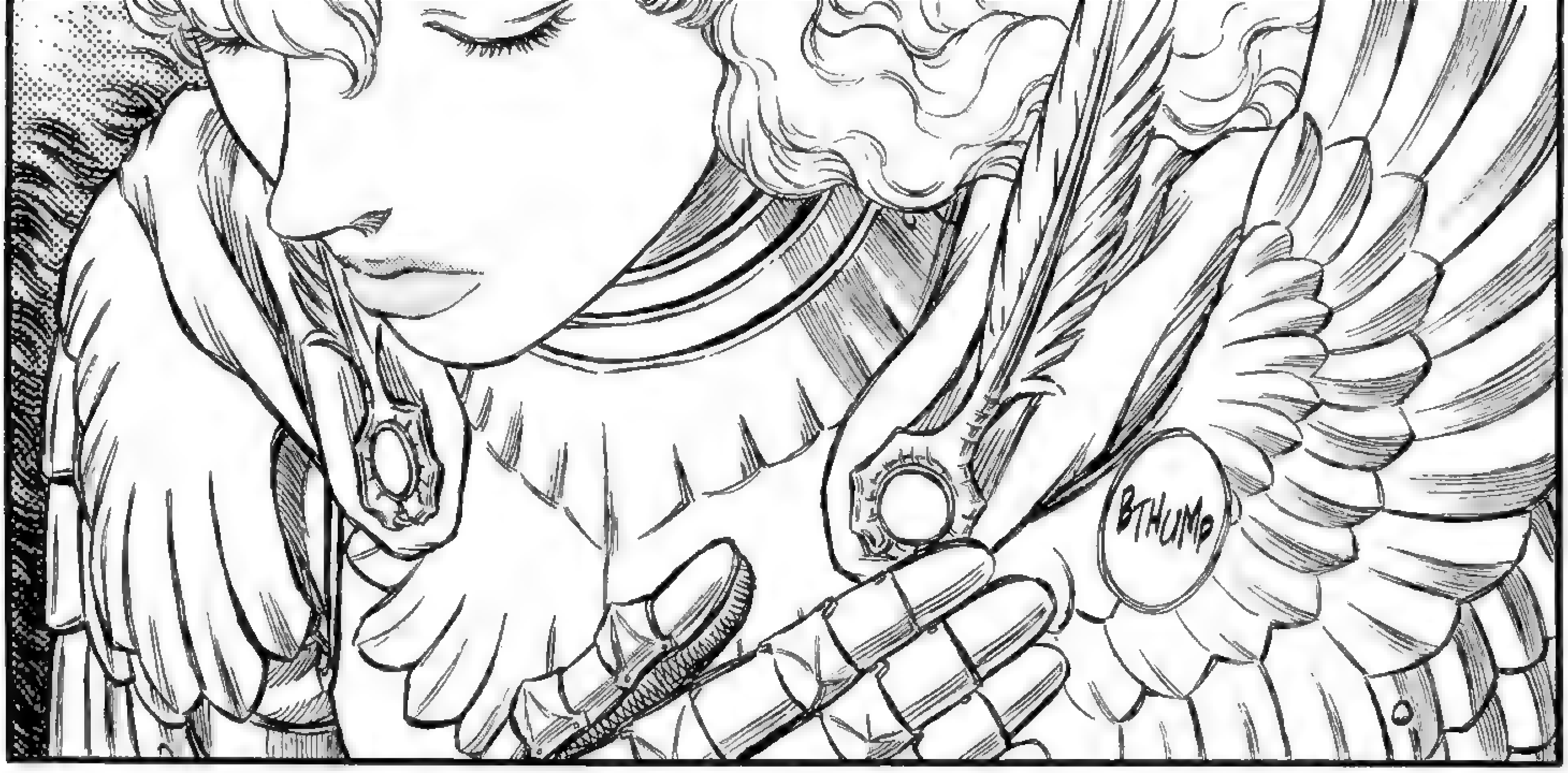
AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DID...
...YOU SAY NOTHING'S CHANGED ?!
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
THIS IS THE MAN I AM.
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.


ビュウ ヴ。ヴーー ウーー

*FX: WHOOOWOOOO


GUTS...
TELL IT TO ME.
THE TRUTH.
WHAT HAPPENED TO GRIFFITH AND EVERYONE ELSE THAT DAY?
HOWEVER PAINFUL IT IS...
...DON'T I HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW IT, TOO?!
NO!!
I HAVE TO KNOW!!
GUTS...!!

ヴ
*WHOM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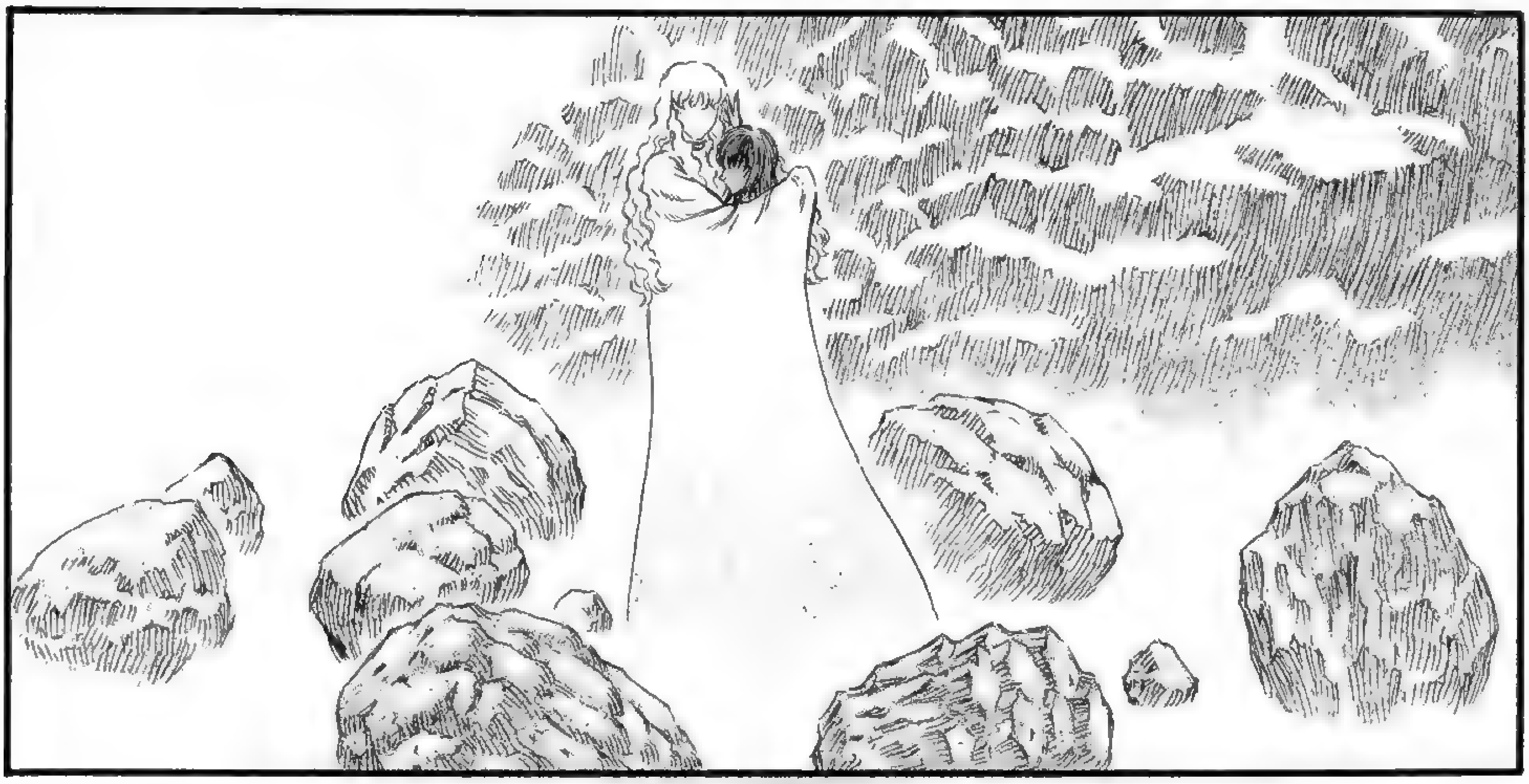

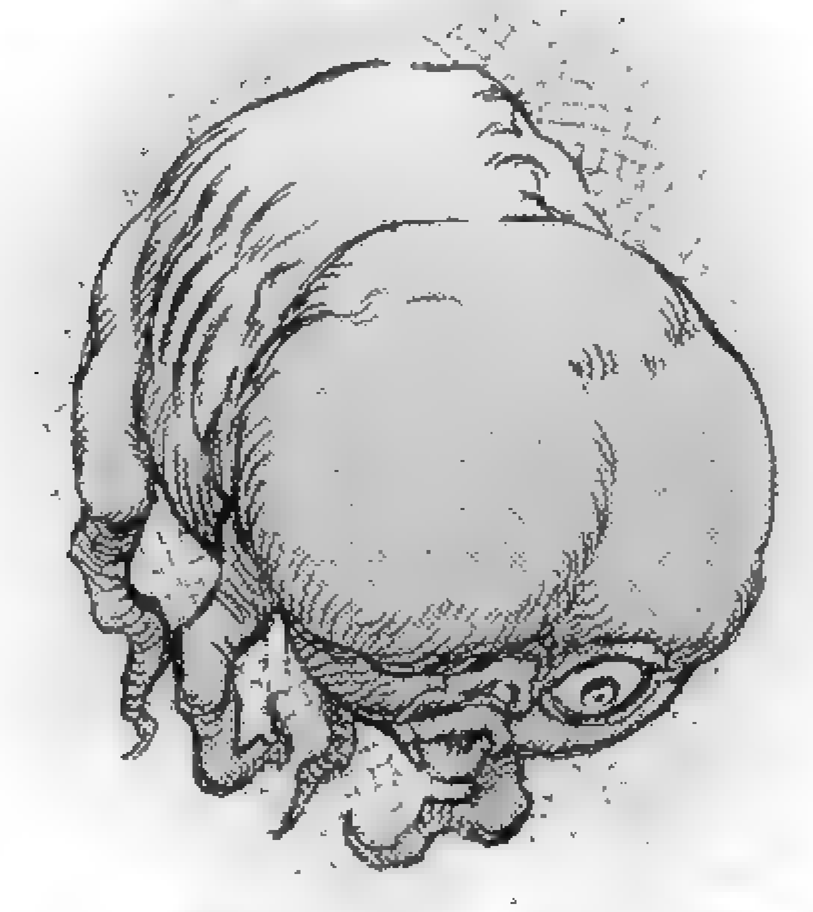

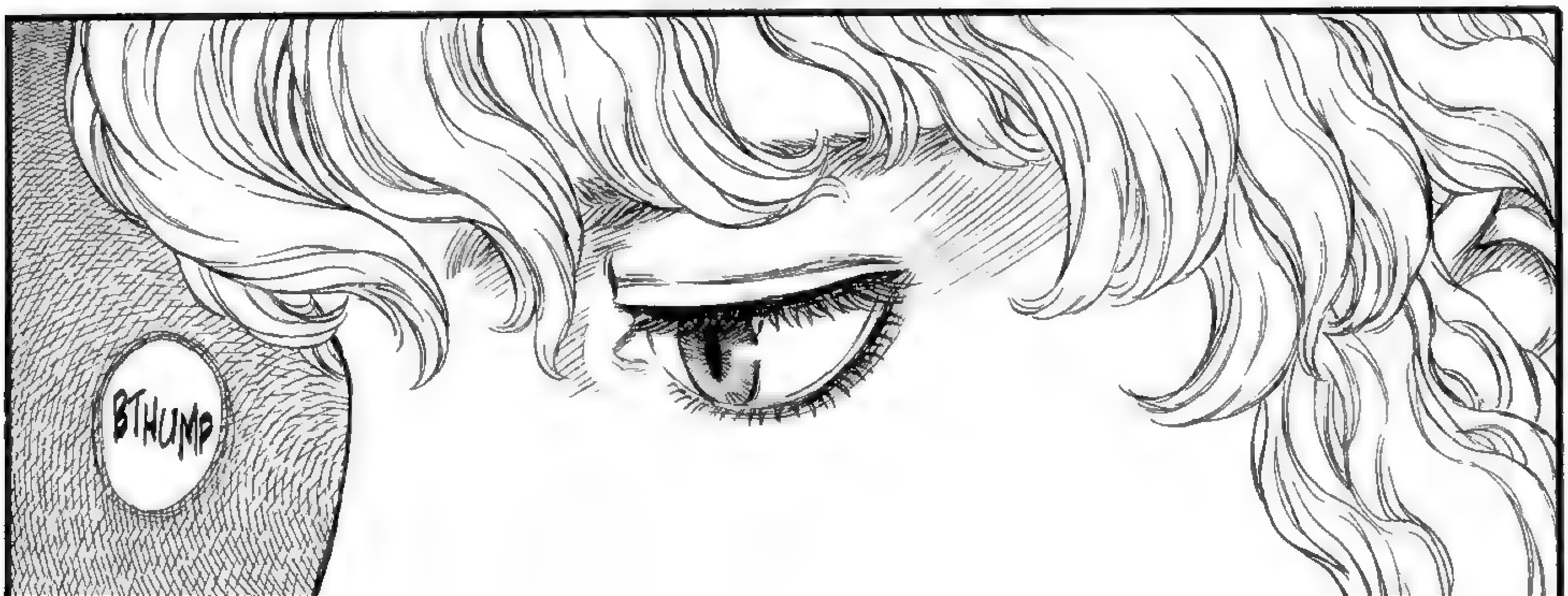
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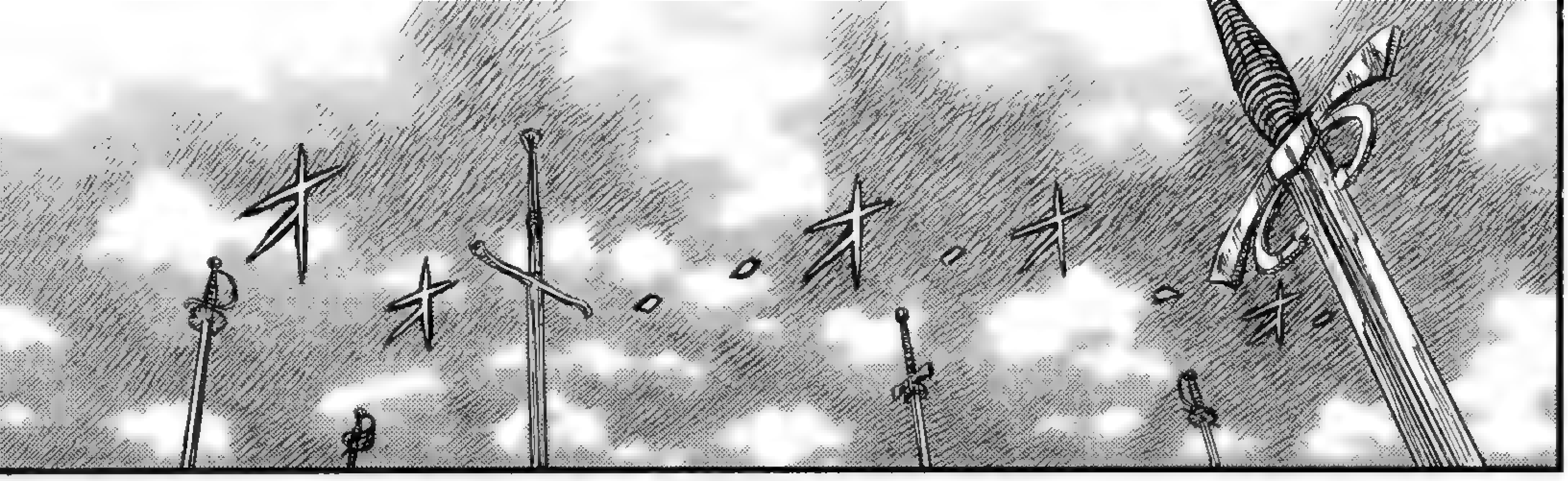
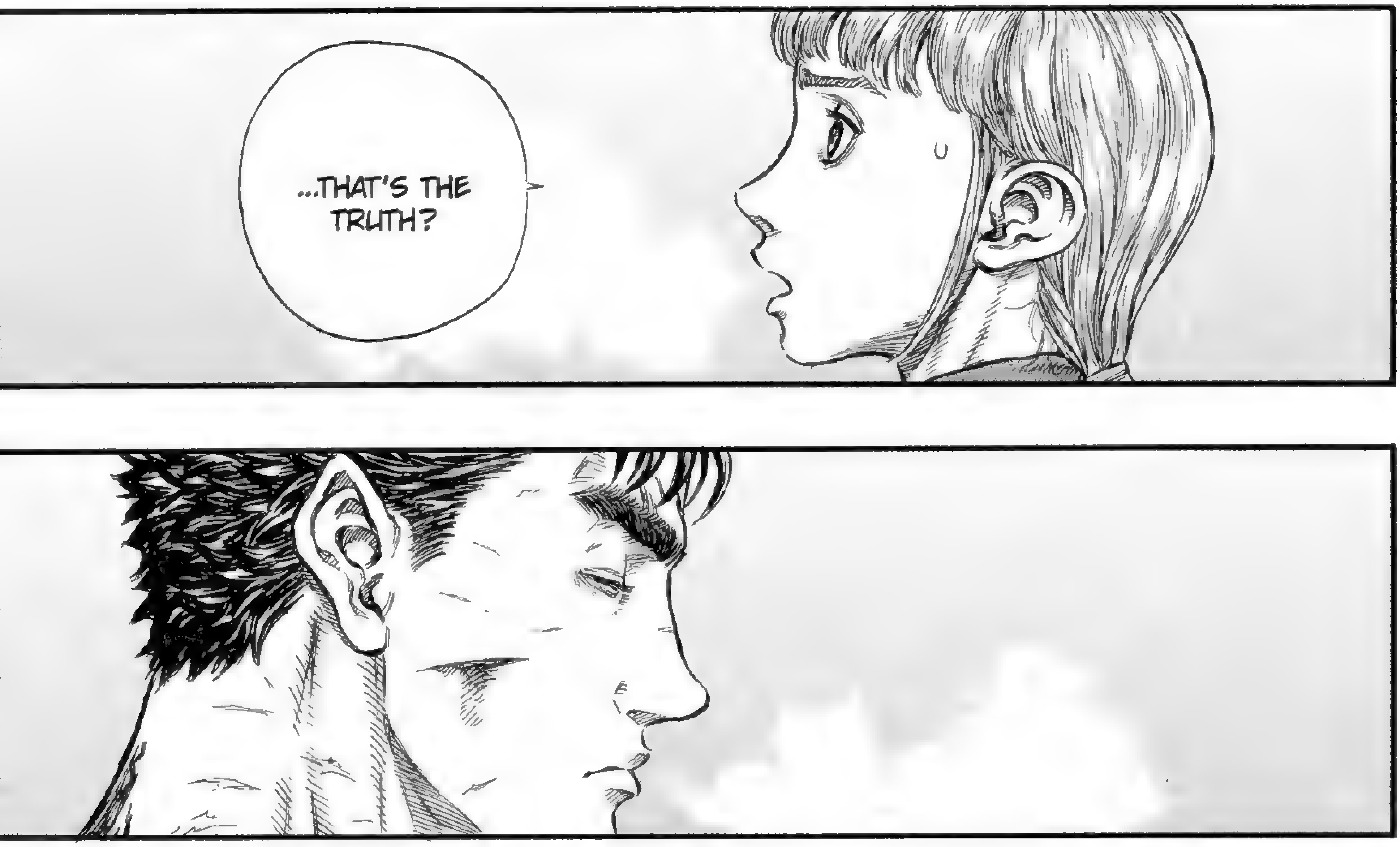
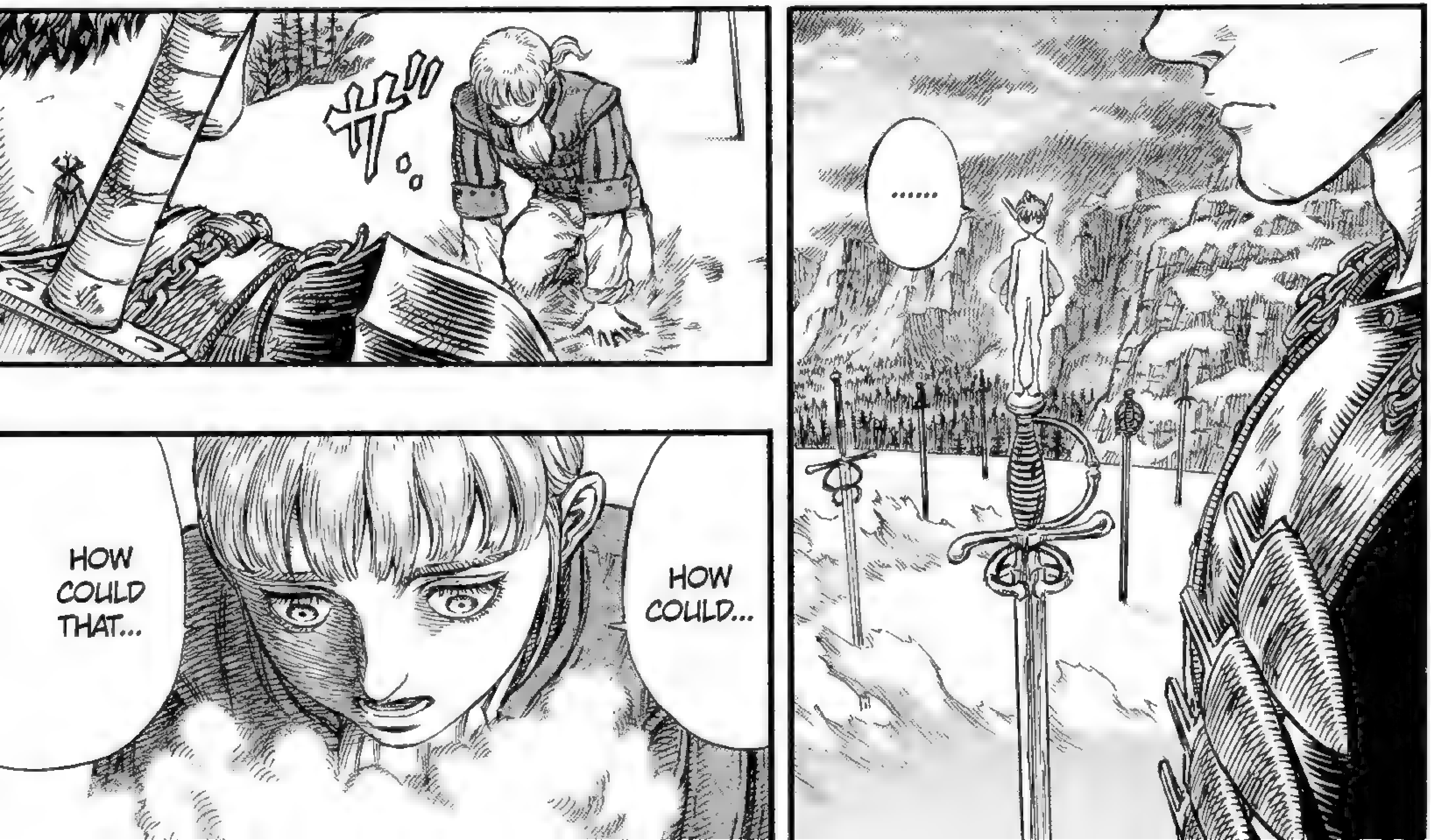


*FX: WOOOO-OOO


...THAT'S THE TRUTH?

*FX: WMP


......
ザッ
HOW COULD...
HOW COULD THAT...

SOMEHOW OR OTHER...
...I'D FIGURED IT OUT...
...THAT IMAGE WAS...
...FROM THEN...
SO...
....
AHHHH...

OH, IT'S NO USE.
IT'S ALL BURIED.
WHAT NOW?
THIS MEANS GUTS AND CASCA'S HOME IS...
AND RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ALL TOGETHER...
I'M GOING, TOO!!
YOU CARRIED...
...THAT HEAVY BURDEN ALL ALONE...
...WHILE I REMAINED *IGNORANT*!!
COMFORTABLE BY MYSELF IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...!!

TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
I WAS...
I'M A HAWK, TOO...!!
NO.
!
WHY NOT...?!
BECAUSE YOU...
...COULD NEVER REALLY *HATE* GRIFFITH.
...!
YOU'RE LEAVING ?!
!

IS EVERY-ONE...
IS EVERYONE LEAVING ?!
*FX: RUN
ERICA !!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN'?!
HURRY 'N' CATCH HER!
*WHF
......

SO...?
WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO NOW?
KEEP ON...
...THE TRAIL OF VENGEANCE?
I WON'T...
...LEAVE HER AGAIN.

DON'T SAY THE TRAIL OF VENGEANCE WITH CASCA...
I KNOW!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I KNOW THAT.
AIN'T WE RELUCTANT.
THE FACT THAT TWO BRANDED PEOPLE CAN'T STAY IN ONE PLACE FOR LONG...
...WAS PROVEN AT THE TOWER OF CONVICTION.
BUT THE ELF CAVE'S BEEN DEMOLISHED.
STAYIN' HERE'S A BIT OUTTA THE QUESTION, *HUH*?
AIN'T THERE ANY OTHER ELF DWELLINGS AROUND HERE?
NONE COME TO MIND...
THEN YOU'D JUST LOCK CASCA UP AGAIN? THAT'S SAD.
DIDN'T SHE RUN OFF IN THE FIRST PLACE 'CAUSE SHE HATED THAT?

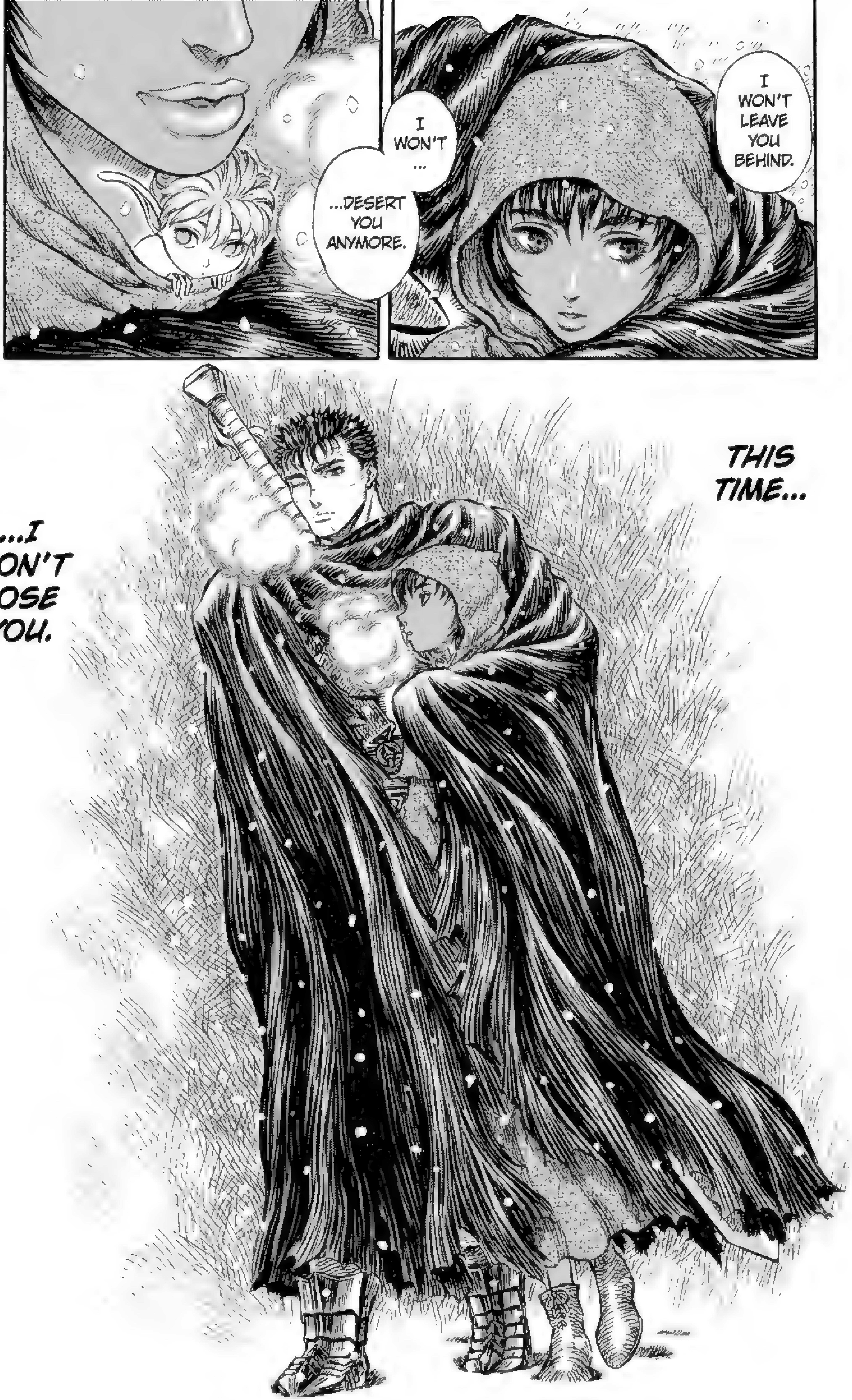
SINCE I'M THE ONLY ELF EXPERT HERE...
しゅっ しゅっ しゅっ しゅっ
3-BIT
...
*FX: SHH SHH SHH SHH
YEAH! THERE'S A PLACE!
IT'S A LITTLE FAR, BUT IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PARADISE PROBABLY SAFER 'N ANYWHERE IN THIS WORLD!
WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT SOONER?
*SMEP
?
MY HOME.

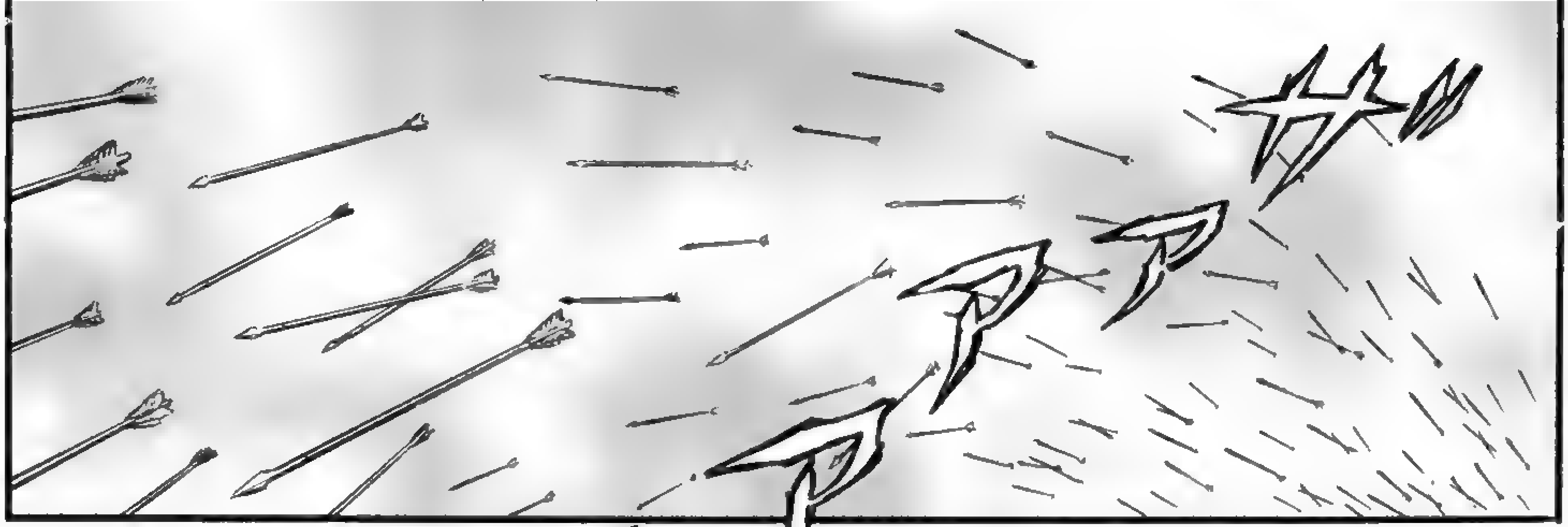
HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK
クシャーン猛襲
YOU CAN'T EVEN STAY JUST ONE NIGHT?
LIKE I SAID, AS LONG AS WE HAVE THESE BRANDS, WE'LL JUST ATTRACT THE DEAD AND DEMON SPIRITS.
THEN *YOU'LL* BE IN DANGER TOO.
I...
AND ERICA...
......
BUT STILL...
I, TOO...
DON'T ABANDON ...
...WHAT YOU CAN'T REPLACE.
WEREN'T THOSE GODO'S PARTING WORDS?

TAKE CARE, CASCA!!
YOU'D BETTER BE SURE TO LOOK AFTER HER, GUTS!!
SNOW...
THAT'S RIGHT. THE TIME I LEFT THE BAND OF THE HAWK...
...IT WAS IN SNOW JUST LIKE THIS.
THE DAY I QUARRELED WITH HIM...
...WAS ON A SNOWY HILL LIKE THIS.
THIS TIME...
...I'M THE ONE WHO WAS DESERTED.

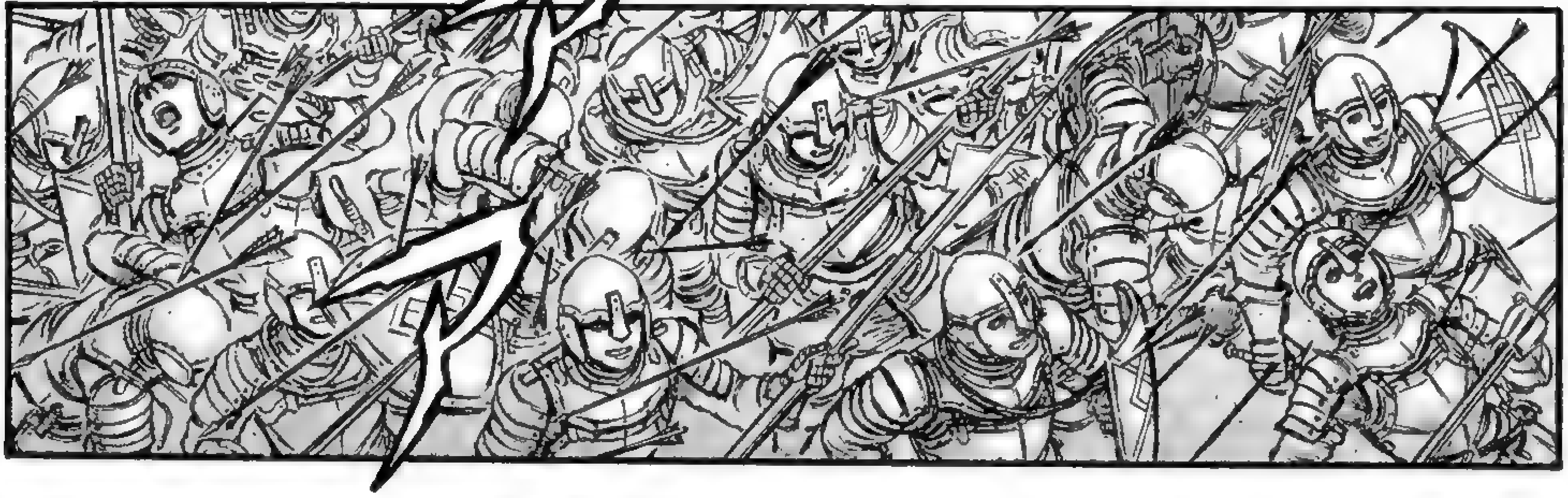
I TOLD YOU ONCE...
...I WILL...
...GET MY OWN KINGDOM.
YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN.
THIS IS THE MAN I AM.

YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE.

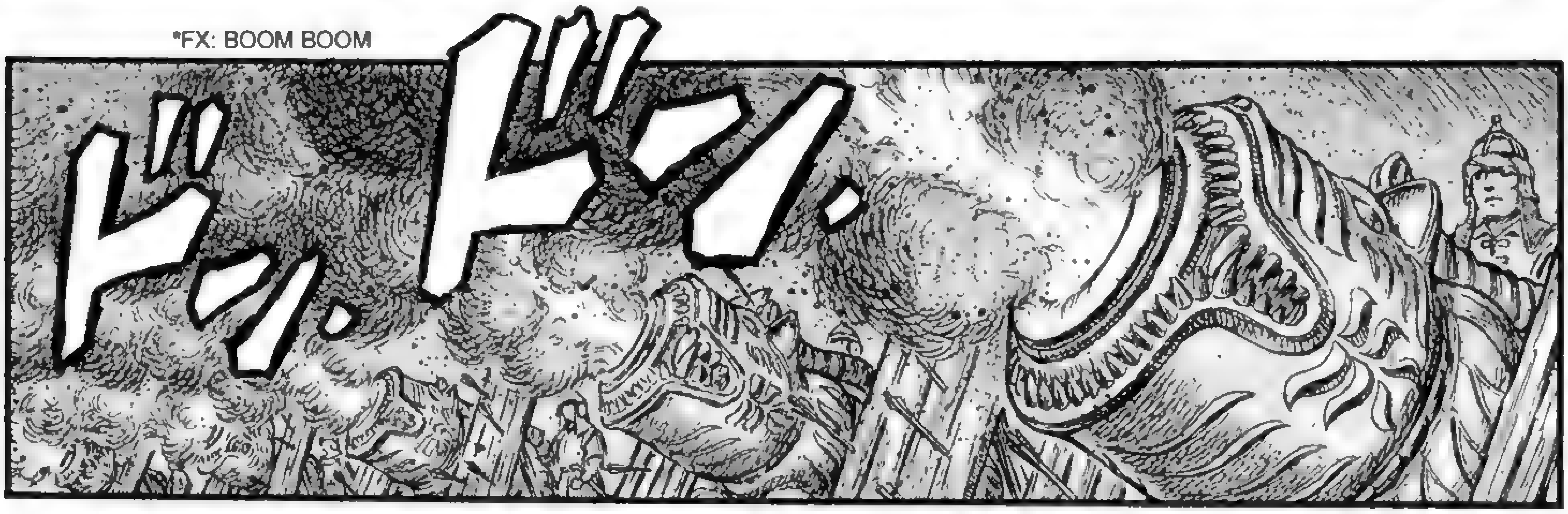

I WON'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
I WON'T ...
...DESERT YOU ANYMORE.
THIS TIME...
...I WON'T LOSE YOU.

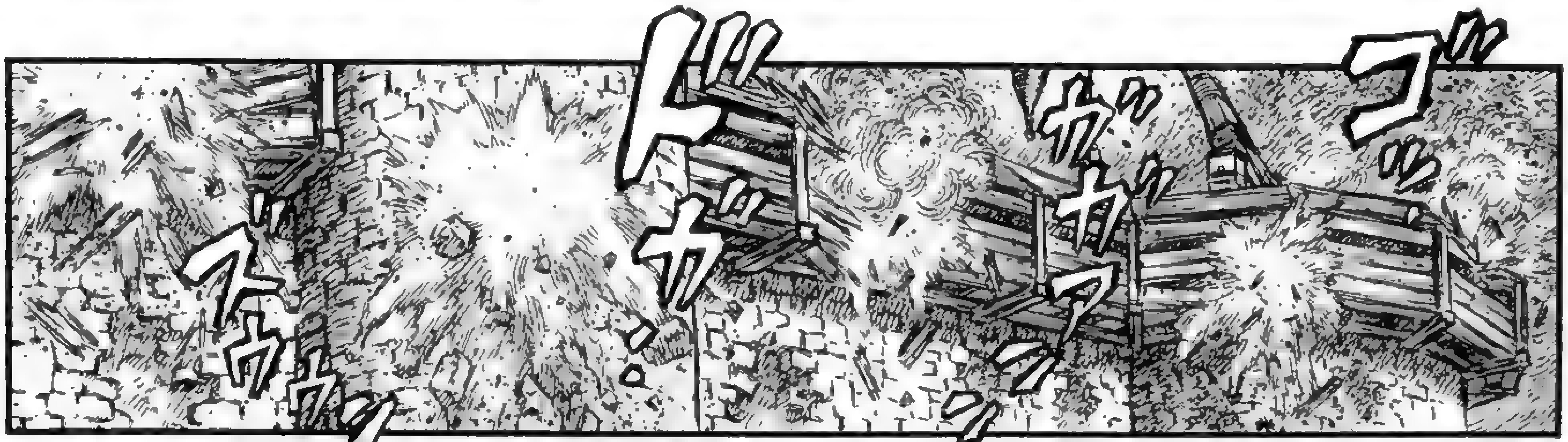


*VSHHHHH



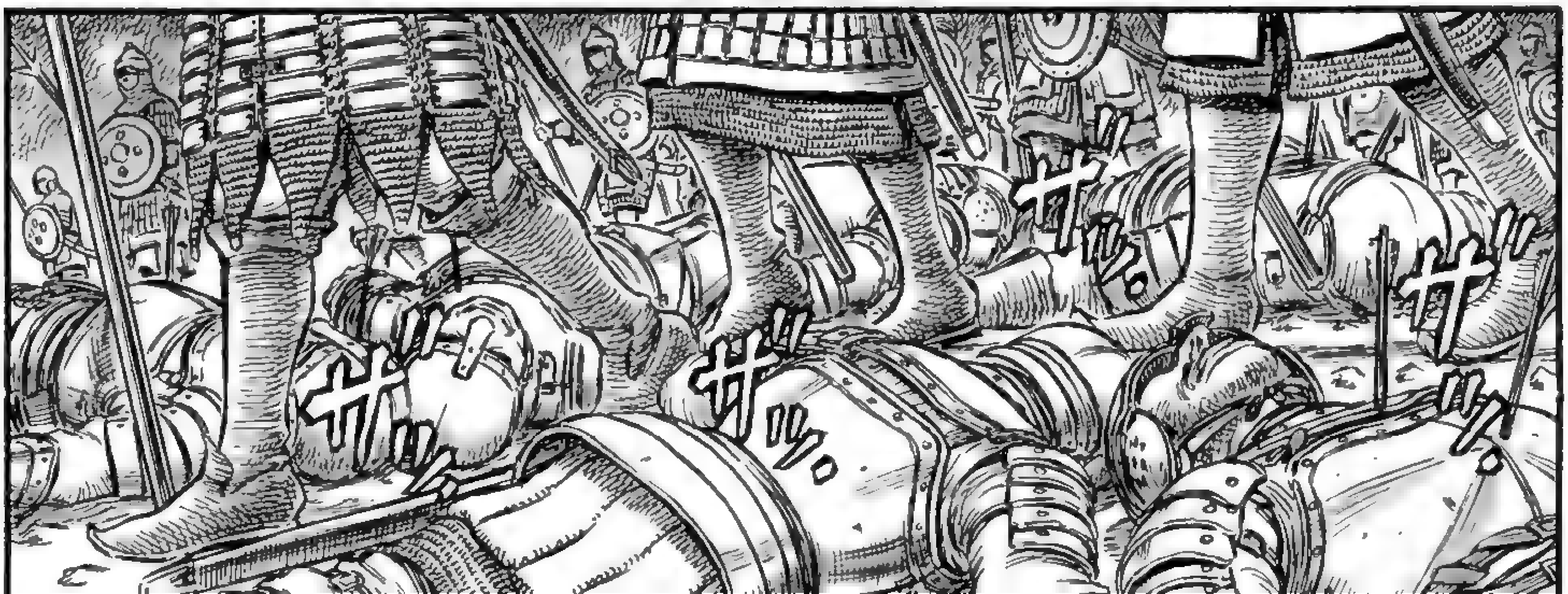
*FX: BOOM BOOM




ゴッ
ガガァッ
ドガッ
ズヴゥゥ

*DZOOON *FX: BWOMP *GDASSSH *FX: WHOMP

*FX: TRMP TRMP TRMP TRMP



SHET,
WESTERN
MIDLAND

*FX: WHACK
*FX. TNK
*FX: ROLL
*KRRN
*KRRN
*KRRN
*THNK
*THNK
*THNK

AIIEEE ...
STOP THIIIS...
ギャアアア

*FX: BWOOF

*GYAHHH

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO US?
WHO KNOWS?
I'M SURE WE'LL BE TAKEN TO THEIR LAND AS SLAVES.
OR ELSE BE MADE TO HAVE KUSHAN CHILDREN... IT'S THE QUICKEST WAY TO TAKE OVER ANOTHER RACE.
I HEARD A RUMOR THAT THEY SACRIFICE WOMEN TO THEIR GOD.
NOOOO...!!
EITHER WAY, WE'RE DONE FOR.
THIS TOWN, THIS KINGDOM.
THE BAND OF THE HAWK.
IF ONLY *HE* WERE HERE...
...THIS WOULD NEVER...
THERE'S NO USE SAYING THAT NOW.
IT'S COMING.
SOON, NOW.
OUR HELPING HAND.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS GIRL?
SHE SAW HER PARENTS BURN TO DEATH. SHE MUST HAVE LOST HER MIND.
IT'S COMING.

THE *HAWK OF LIGHT* IS COMING.
I CAN HEAR IT.
THAT'S WHAT THE WIND WHISPERS.

IT SEEMS THE FEAR OF OUR ARMY IS A BIT *TOO* STRONG A MEDICINE.
BUT, GENERAL, THEY SHOW NO SIGN OF ACCEPTING OUR REPEATED COUNSEL TO SURRENDER.
IF ONLY IT DID NOT TAKE SO LONG FOR A CITY TO FALL.
THE FOOLS CALL EXTERMINATION DOWN ON THEMSELVES WHEN THEY ...
...COULD GO ON LIVING AS WAR SLAVES IF THEY'D ONLY SUBMIT.
OUR FORCES HAVE ALREADY MANAGED TO BRING DOWN SIX FORTRESSES ...
...AND YET HERE *YOU* ARE...
AN ENTIRE CLAN HAS FAILED TO CAPTURE JUST ONE MAN.
I'M FLABBERGASTED, ***BAKIRAKA.***
WHAT MAKES *YOU* A WARRIOR CLAN?
HOW ***ABSURD.***

AND NOW YOU SAY THE HAWK FLEW OFF ON AN EVIL BEAST.
WHO WOULD BELIEVE SUCH NONSENSE?
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, BUT THIS INVASION...
I HEAR TELL THAT IT ALL STARTED BASED ON AN ORACLE RECEIVED BY THE HIGH PRIEST. IN THAT CASE, ANY KIND OF ABNORMAL PHENOMENON SHOULD BE POSSIBLE...
*WHOCK
ONE WHO IS AS A *SLAVE...*
...OUGHT NOT TO SPEAK AS IF INFORMED.
WHAT DO PRIESTS KNOW OF WAR?
FROM A MILITARY STANDPOINT...
...CLAIMING AN ORACLE AS THE START OF A WAR IS NO MORE THAN A PRETEXT.
EVEN IF OUR GREAT EMPEROR RECOGNIZES PEOPLE LIKE YOU AS SOLDIERS FOR AMUSEMENT'S SAKE, ENTRUSTING YOU WITH A MISSION...
...IS AN ACT OF RAVING DRUNKENNESS.
*FX: GRIND
YOU BAKIRAKA WHO RELY ON...
...SUCH MUTTERED TRIPE ARE PATHETIC.
YOU ALL WERE DRIVEN FROM THE EMPIRE FOR SIDING WITH THE DEFEATED ROYAL FAMILY IN THE PREVIOUS STRUGGLE FOR IMPERIAL SUCCESSION, BUT YOUR ORIGINAL SOCIAL STANDING WAS AT THE LEVEL OF SLAVES. WHAT GOOD WILL REPATRIATION DO YOU?

UOH?!
*FX: WSHH
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ...?!
*FX: SHRRRL
*SNATCH
*FX· VEENNNNG
IF YOU WOULD PARDON THE URGENCY.
*FX: GULP

!
IT DIDN'T WORK ...!
RU--!
*WSHH
...UH ...
*CROK
*GSSH

AHHHH! DAMN YOUUU!
*WHOM
*BGANG

IGHH...
*CHWOK
*KONK
*BOCH

AHHH
あああ
CHOK
WE BEG YOUR PARDON.

S-SO SWIFT!! WHAT SKILLS!!
AND THEY CRUSHED IRON ARMOR WITH THEIR BARE HANDS?!
ザッ
ザッ
ARE THEY MONSTERS?!
WE NOW RETURN TO OUR MISSION OF SEARCHING FOR THE HAWK.
カッ
カッ

*FX: TRMP TRMP

*FX CLOP CLOP

FIERCE KUSHAN ATTACK: END

鬨の風①

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC

THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER

WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 1

IS THAT ...?!

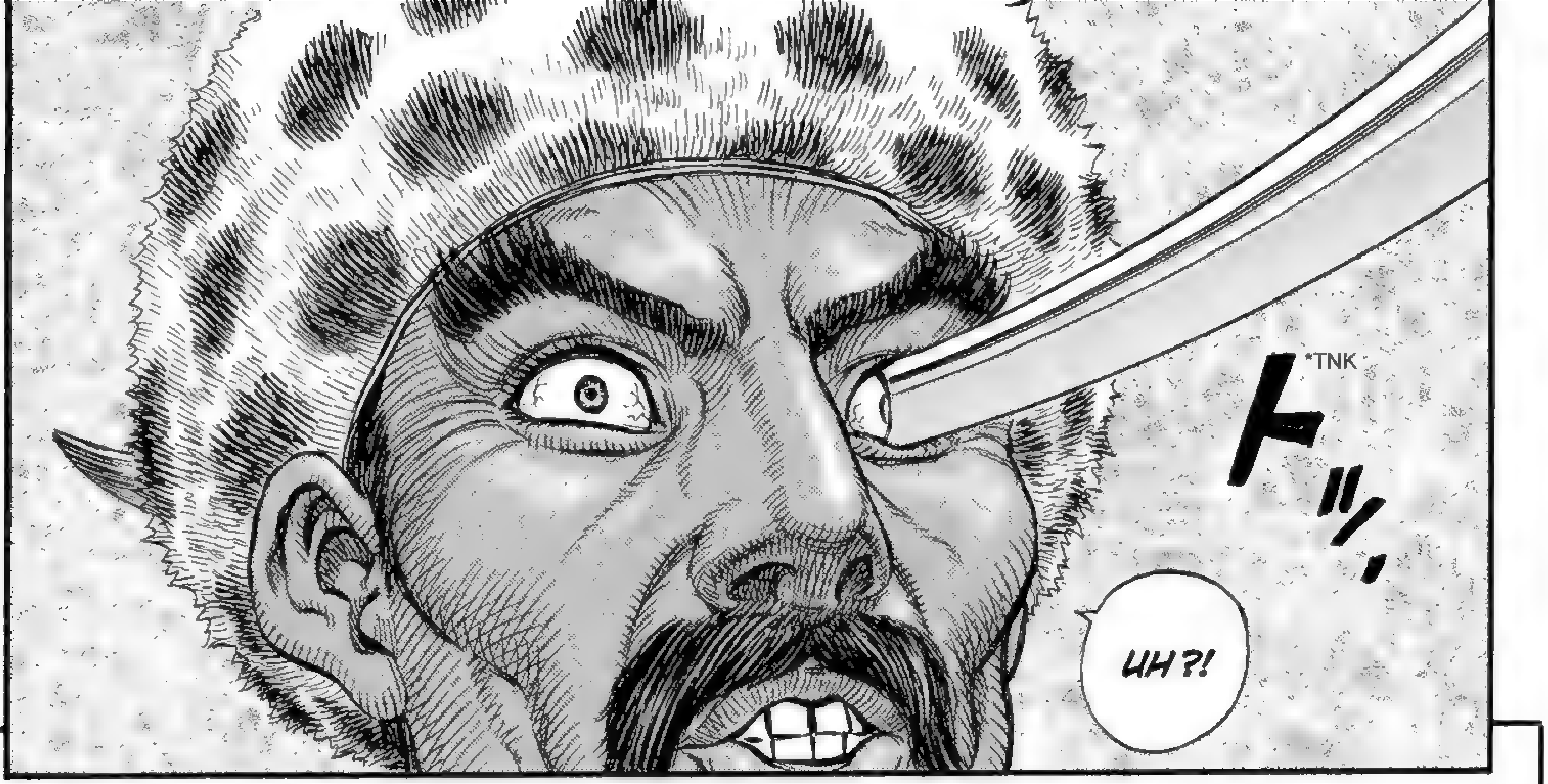
THE HAWK OF LIGHT...!!
IMPOSSIBLE!! WHY IS HE HERE...?!
Y...
YOU...
WHAT...?

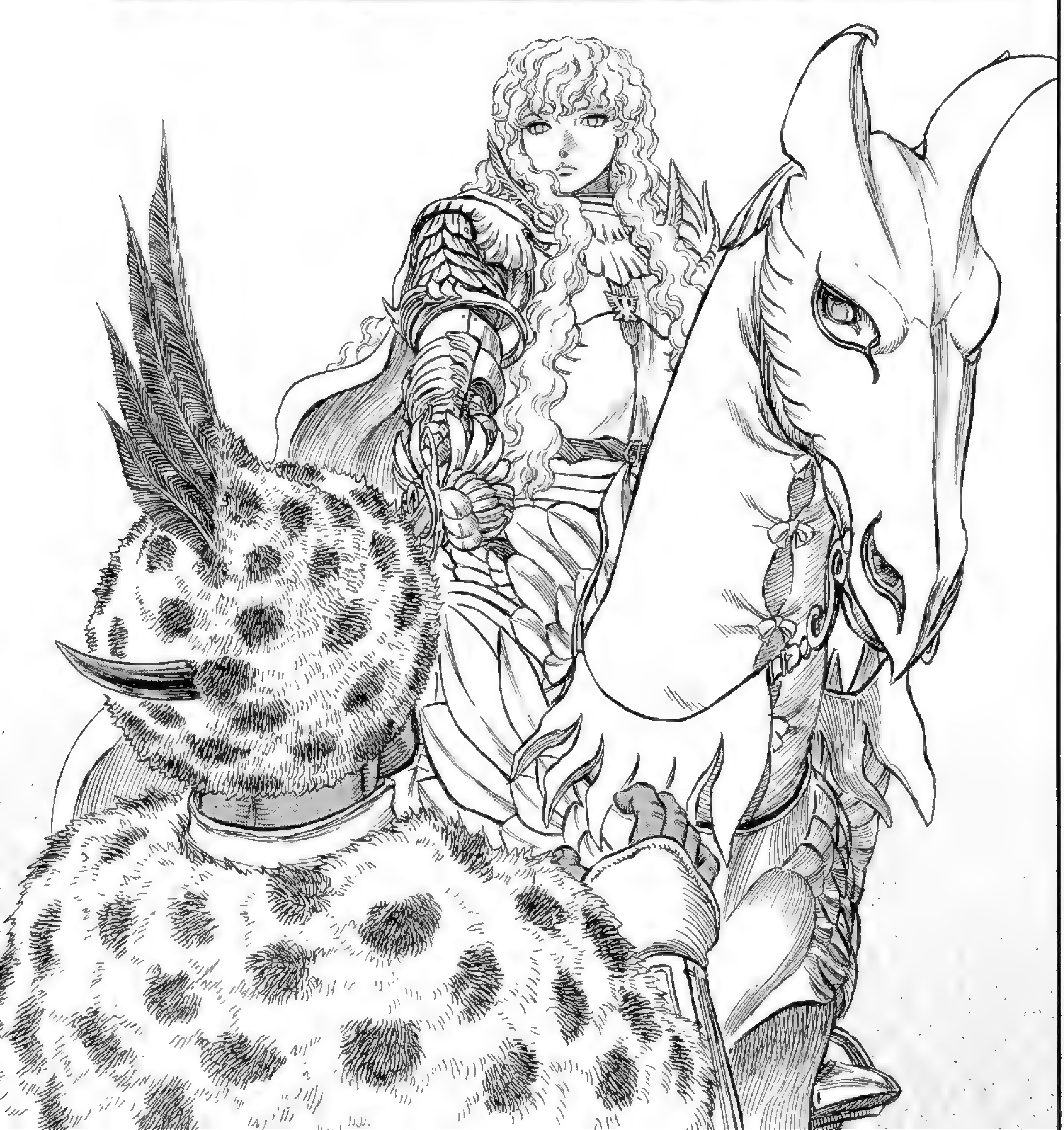
*FX: SHH

*FX: AH

*FX: CLOP

*FX: CLOP


ドッ
*TNK
UH?!



ビク。
*TWITCH
ビク。
*TWITCH
カク。
カク。
カク。
*CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
ザッ!
*FX: FMP
ドシャッ…
*FX: SHUNK

E... EXCELLENCY.
WH- WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
FIRE!!
*GASHANNNG
FIRE YOUR ARROWS!!
W...
WAIT...!!
*TUNG
*TUNG
*TUNG
*TUNG

ダダダダダダダダ
*FX: SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP SMP

N... NOT ONE ARROW ...?
D- DID HE DODGE ?
IMPOSSIBLE!! NO WAY COULD HE--NOT THAT MANY!!
*FX: MURMUR
A COINCIDENCE ...?
*FX: MURMUR
BUT...
F- FOOLS !!
OF COURSE IT'S MERE COINCIDENCE !!
WHY ARE YOU JUST STANDING THERE?!
SECOND VOLLEY !!
FIRE!!
*SHNNK

*FX: SHRONK
?!
WHA --?
WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!
*CHOLP
*CHOLP
*GUFFF

*GRRRR
WH-WHAT IS HE...?!
IS HE WITH THAT MAN?!
SLAY HIM AS WELL!!
*FX: ROHHHHH
*WHOK

*UWAHHH
THAT WARRIOR ...!!
......
HE'S A MONSTER!!
S-STAND YOUR GROUND!!
THEY'RE JUST TWO HORSEMEN!!
ARGH!! HURRY AND BRING HIM DOWN!!
STOP DAWDLING!!
TCH!
*HYNN

*CHK
*CHK
*CHK
*CHK
*FX: THUD THD GCHAK
?!
IGH!
ドサ
ド。
ガチャ。
!
ヒュン
*HYNNN

*VRHRHRHR
ヴルルルルッ
MY ENEMIES, YOUR PARDON...
...FOR BEING ON HORSEBACK.

*FX: GCHAK
MY NAME IS **LOCUS.**
I HAVE RIDDEN HERE GUIDED BY AN ORACLE.
I RECOGNIZE YOU AS THE HAWK OF LIGHT.
*CLOP
IS THIS THE TRUTH?
*CLOP

THE MOONLIGHT KNIGHT, LOCUS.
I ACCEPT YOUR SWORD.
DELIGHTED !!
ガチン
HAWK OF LIGHT...
"HAWK" ...
BUT THAT CAN'T BE...
I HEARD HE DIED.
NO, THERE'S NO MISTAKING HIM...!!
I SAW HIS FACE IN THE VICTORY PARADE AT WINDHAM. IT COULDN'T BE ANYONE ELSE!
HE *IS* MIDLAND'S GUARDIAN ANGEL...!!

*FX: CHANK

*ZHUNK
*DOMMM
I... INSANITY! WITH JUST THREE HORSEMEN ...!!
ウワァァア
*UWAHHH
*FX: YANK
IT'S HIM...
*FX TROT
HE'S THE ONE!!
HEY, YOU!!
STOP, GIRL! IT'S DANGEROUS !!

GRIFFITH.
THE WIND WHISPERED...
...THAT THE WORLD HAS BEGUN TO CHANGE.

WAR CRY OF THE WIND (1): END

HAWK OF THE MILLENIUM EMPIRE ARC
THE HOLY EVIL WAR CHAPTER
WAR CRY OF THE WIND, PART 2

聖魔戦記の章　鬨の風②

BERSERK

STOP THEM!!
STOP THOSE TWO HORSEMEN!!

*FX: ZHOP

*FX: DOSSH

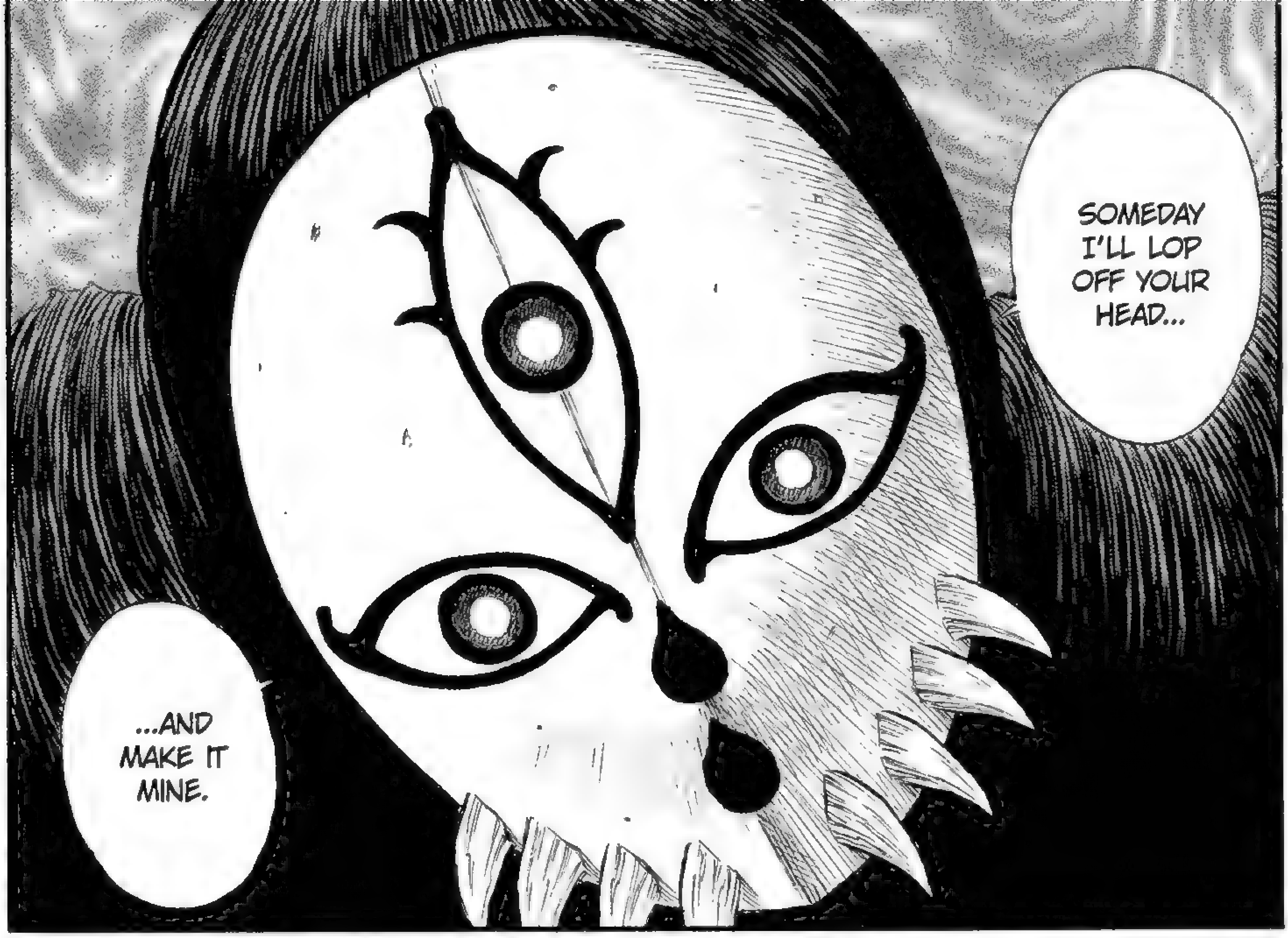
*FX: SHPANNNG

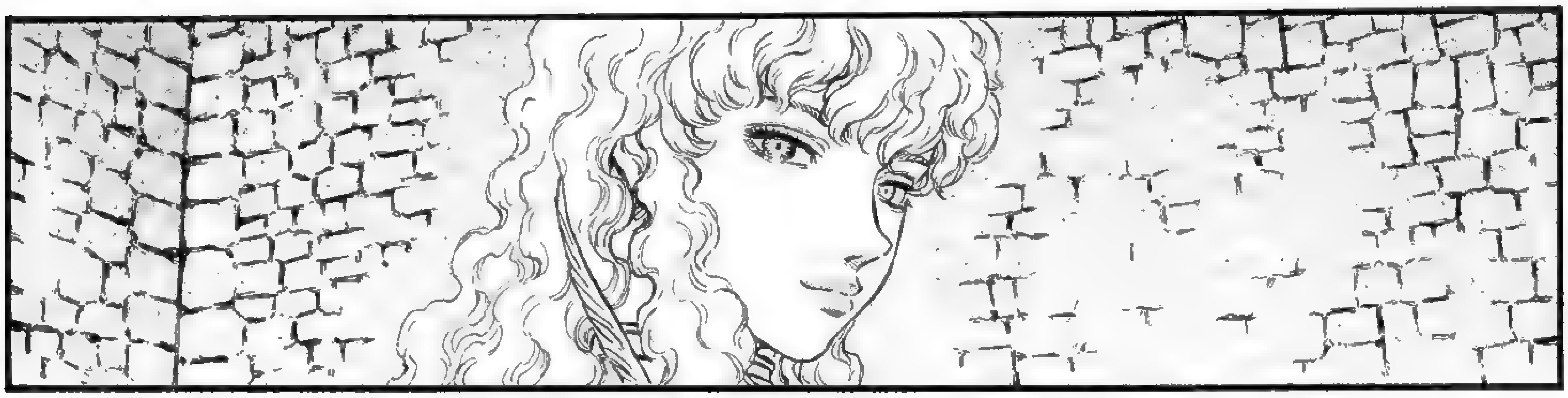
YOUNG MASTER.
WAIT.
WHAT BENEFIT IS THERE IN BEING LOYAL TO THESE?
WE SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS CHAOS TO CAPTURE THE HAWK.
*FX: OHHHHHH
オオ
オ
オ
オ
オ
オ
HE'S INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL.
IT'S LIKE HE'S NOT EVEN HUMAN.

*LEAP
*SHMM
*FX: WSHH WSHH
LOOK OUT...!!

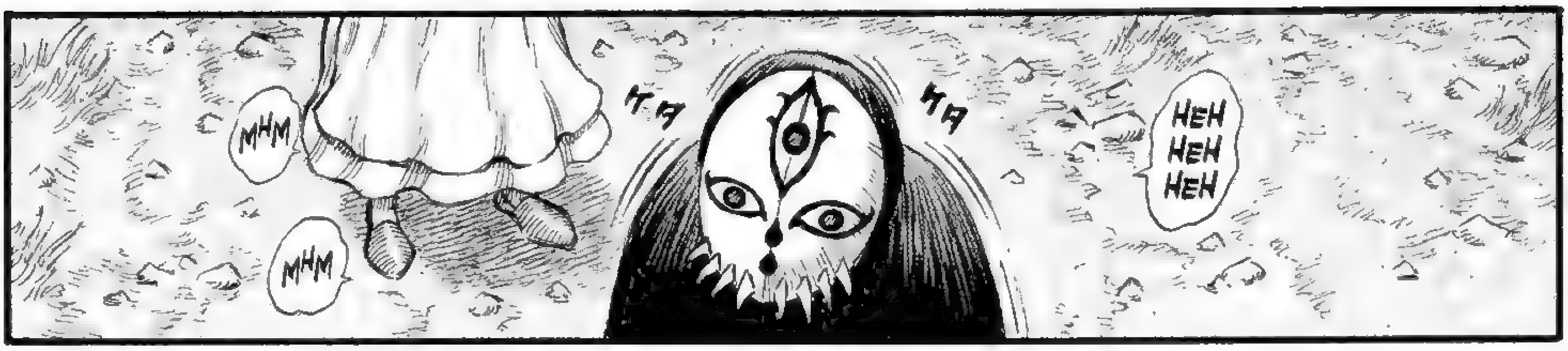
*WHOK
*WHOK
*SH-SHFSHFSHF
IMPOSSIBLE ...!!
WE TAPASA WERE KNOCKED DOWN?!
?!
SLOW.
*KRIK
OBTUSE.
THE SUMMIT OF THE BAKIRAKA ...
...THE TAPASA, INQUIRE IN AMAZEMENT.
*KRIK

*SHUFFF
THAT MASK... !!
YOU'RE RAKSAS!!
I HEARD THE ORACLE.
SO YOU'RE THE HAWK OF LIGHT.
WHY IS OUR CLAN'S ...
... EXILE HERE ?!
......
YOU'RE ...
... LOVELY ...


SOMEDAY I'LL LOP OFF YOUR HEAD...
...AND MAKE IT MINE.

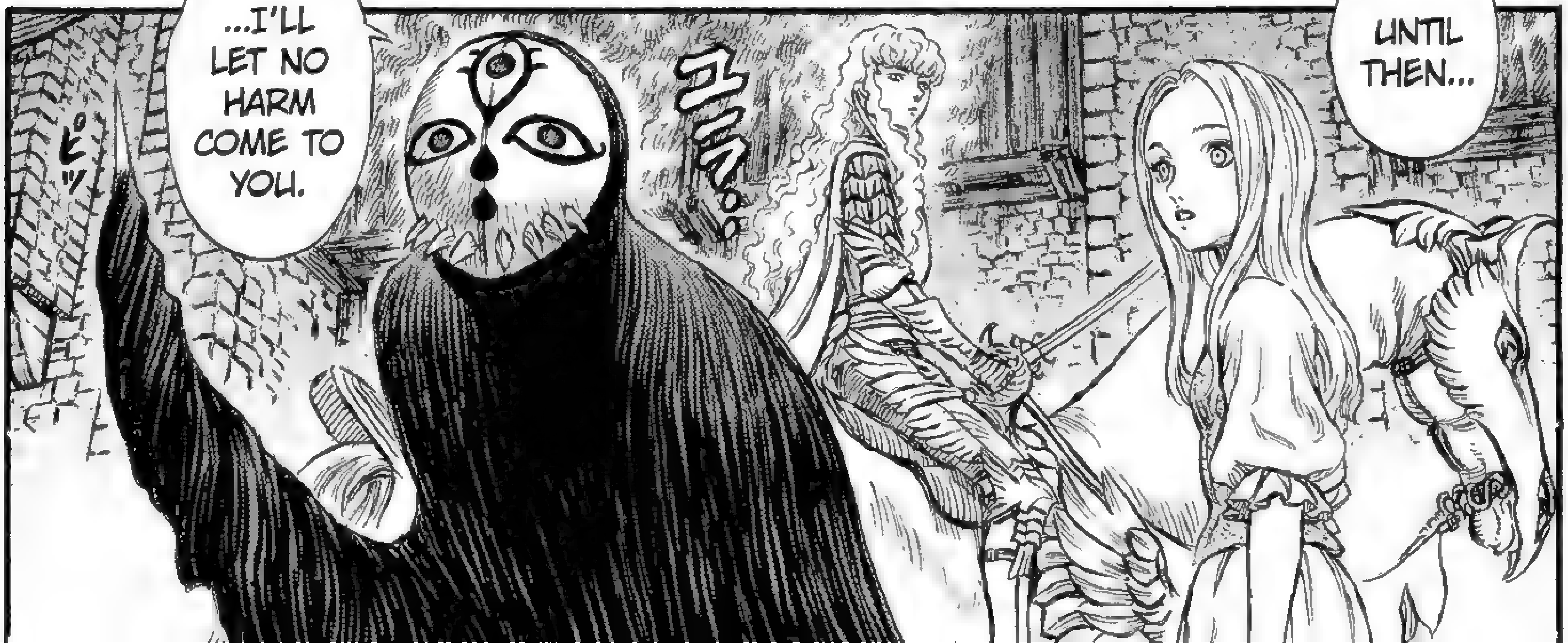


*FX: CACKLE CACKLE


HEH HEH HEH
MHM
MHM

*FX: PWIT

*FX: SWAY


UNTIL THEN...
...I'LL LET NO HARM COME TO YOU.

GRNN!
I'LL PLAY WITH YOU.
VWAA
ヴヴッ

オオオオオオ
OHHHHHH
BAR THE GATE!!
CUT OFF THEIR ESCAPE!!
ガギッ
GACKT
DOSSH

WHA --?
WHAT ?!
ドン
*WHONG
ズシャ。
*ZOOSH

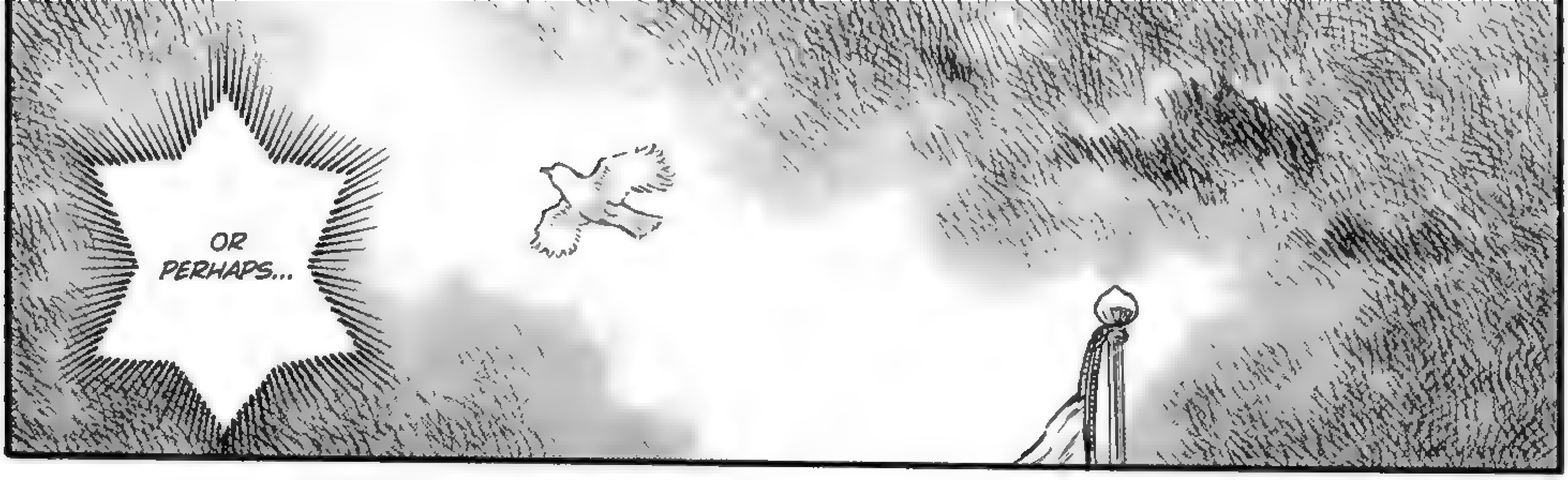
*MUUUUU
G-GIANT ?!
A NAGA ...?!
ST...
STAND YOUR GROUND !!
HE'S BY HIMSELF !
ATTACK !!
*FX: URAHHH
*FX: HEAVE
*GCHAK
*FX: CHOK

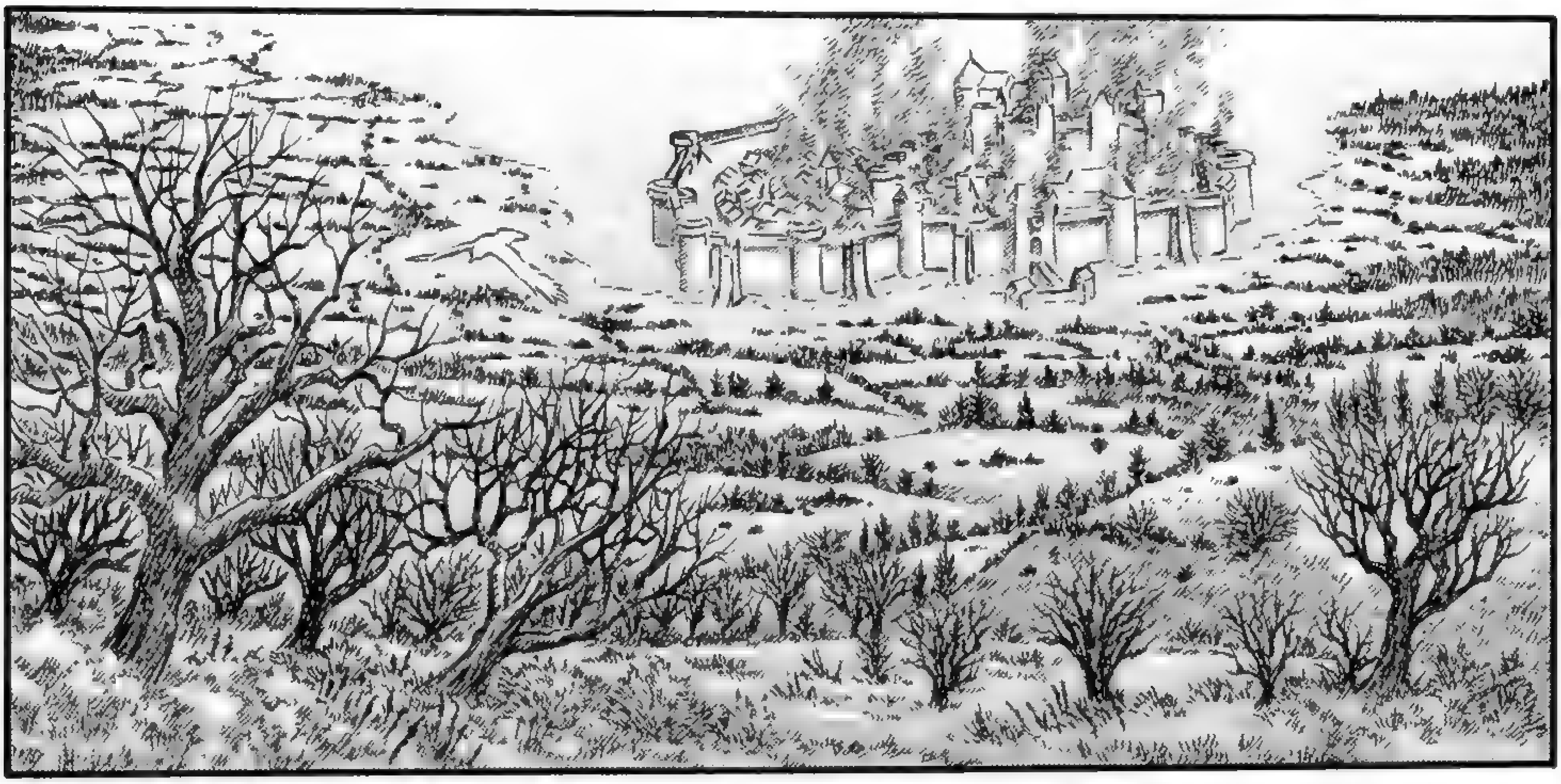
*BWOOM
ゴオオン‥
*BWOOOSH

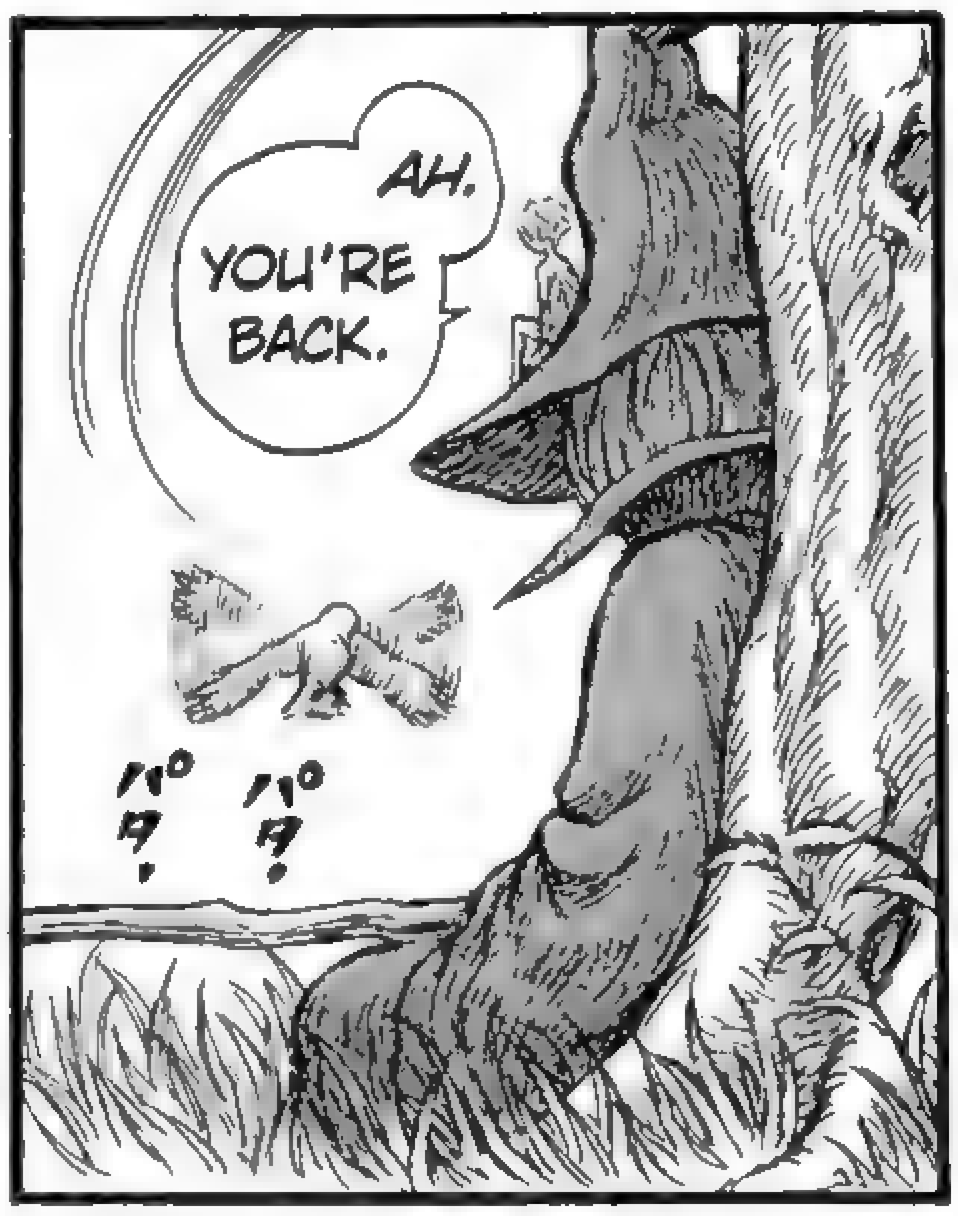
AIEE...!
AI!
IT SPAT FIRE ...!!
*FX: GSHAK
*FX: JOK!
*SHHWOK

MESSAGE!!
*RAHH RAHH
?! ?!
ALL FORCES IN THE STRONGHOLD, *DEPLOY!!*
UGHH
WH...
WHAT IN THE ...?!
*FX GCHAK
WHO GOES THERE ?!

ゴオオオオ。。
*BROARRRR
……
オオオ。
*ROHHHHH
オオ。。
THAT'S THE HAWK OF LIGHT.
THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD.

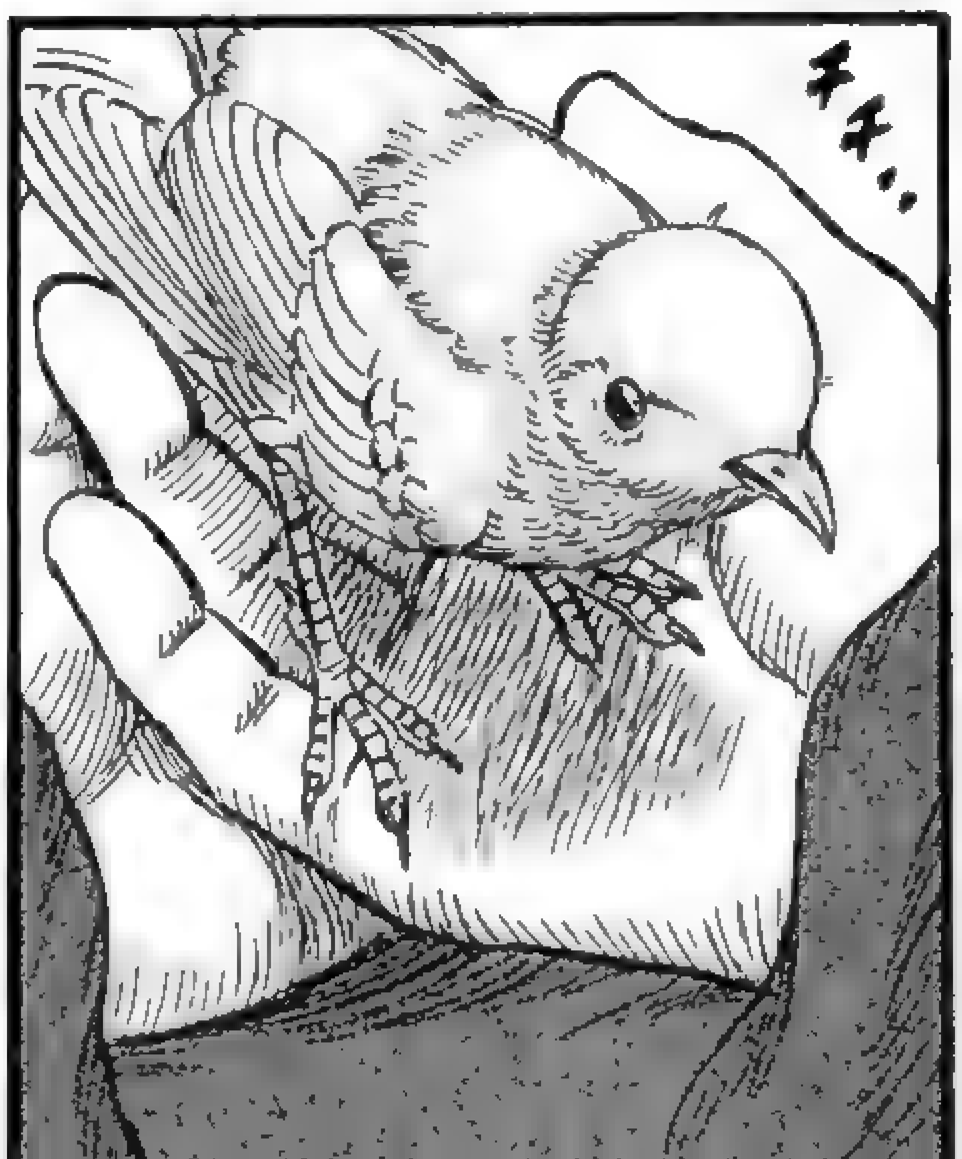


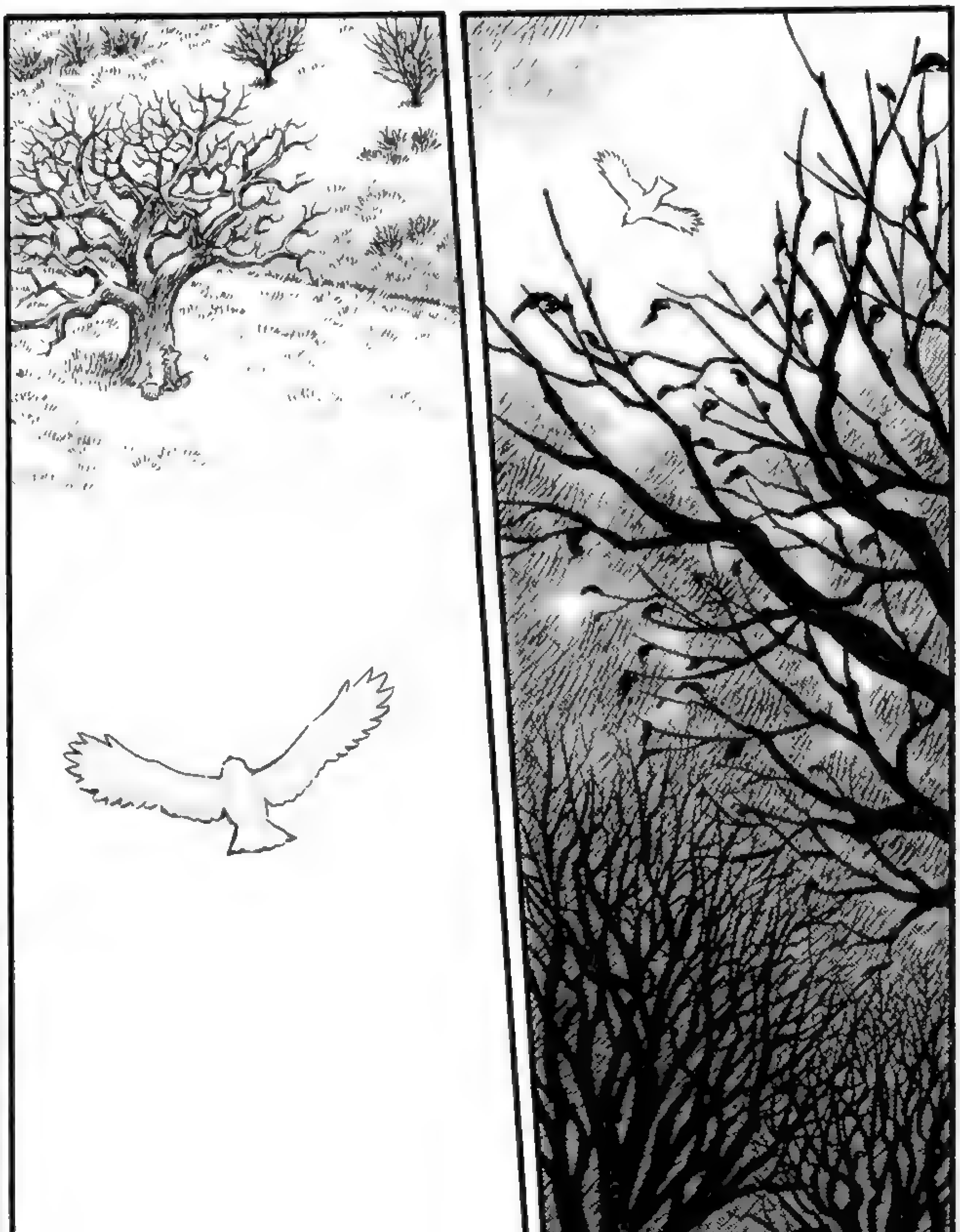



AH. YOU'RE BACK.
パタ
パタ

*FX. FLAP FLAP

*FX: CHIRP





スゥ
*FX: ZMMM
フ
*FX: FM
THANK YOU.
WHY'D YOU HAVE TA USE A BIRD?
パタ パタ
*FLAP FLAP
NEARING THAT FORCE FIELD AS A LUMINOUS BODY WAS PERILOUS. ONE MISTAKE AND I'D BE LOST IN THE ASTRAL WORLD...
GEEZ, SCHIERKE, YOU'RE SO TOUGH TO UNDERSTAND.
THE ANGEL IS THE HAWK OF DARKNESS.
THE MASTER OF THE SINFUL BLACK SHEEP, THE KING OF THE BLIND WHITE SHEEP.
THE ONE WHO SHALL CALL DOWN UPON THE WORLD AN AGE OF DARKNESS.

ビュウウウウウ
*WHOOOOOO
EVERYTHING RED, RED IN THE SETTING SUN SHINING UPON THE BLOOD...
DYED RED...
A CHOKING STENCH.
...OF BLOOD HANGING IN THE AIR.
MINDS GONE NUMB WITH THE STENCH...
THIS SCENE WHICH SHOULD BE ONLY GRUESOME...
HOWEVER...

...INSTEAD...
...IT WAS LIKE...
...AN INIMITABLE PAINTING.

WE WERE NOW SURELY IN THE MIDST OF SOME EXTRAORDINARY TALE.

BERSERK

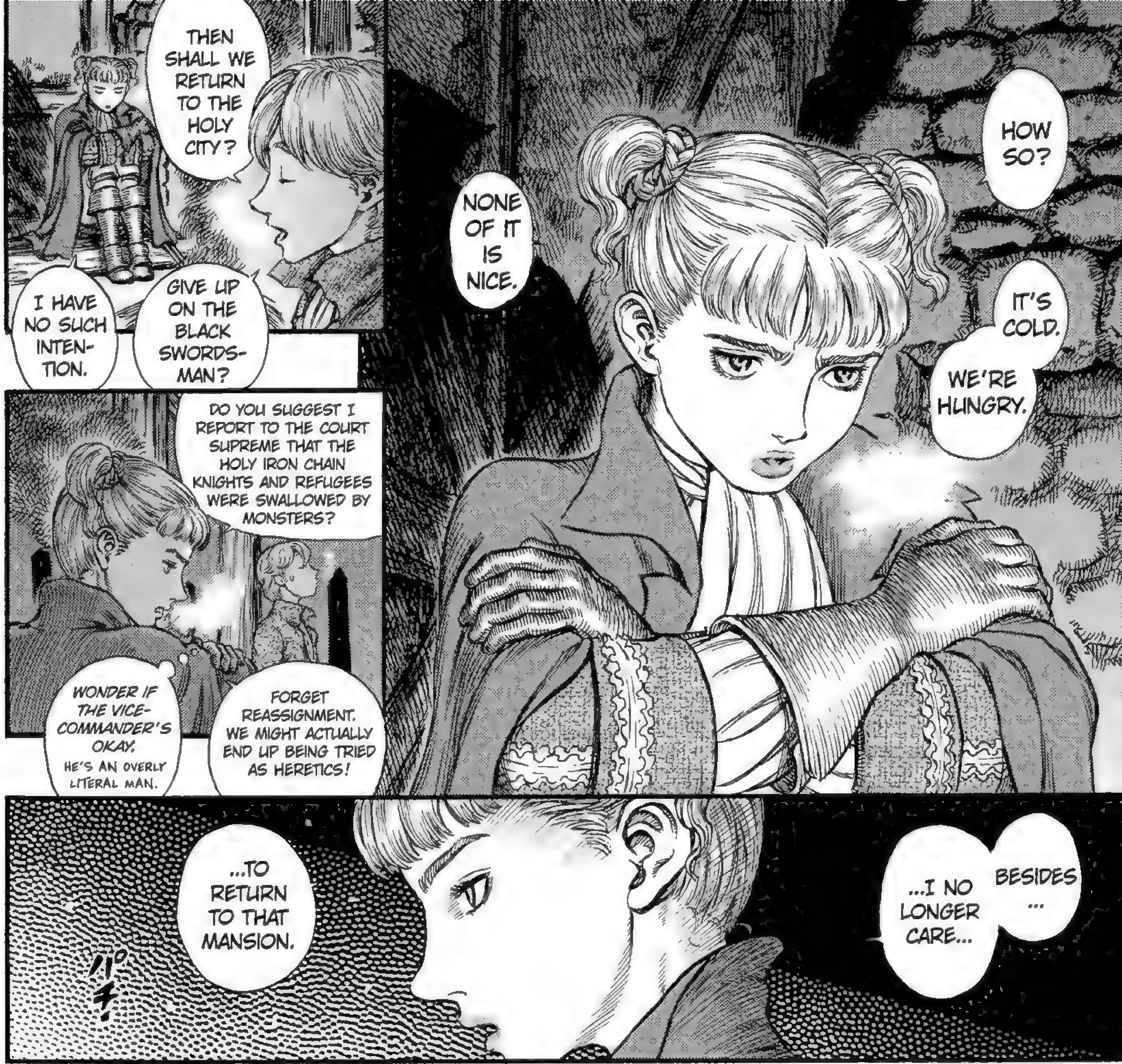
OF SNOW AND FLAME

FIRST ACT

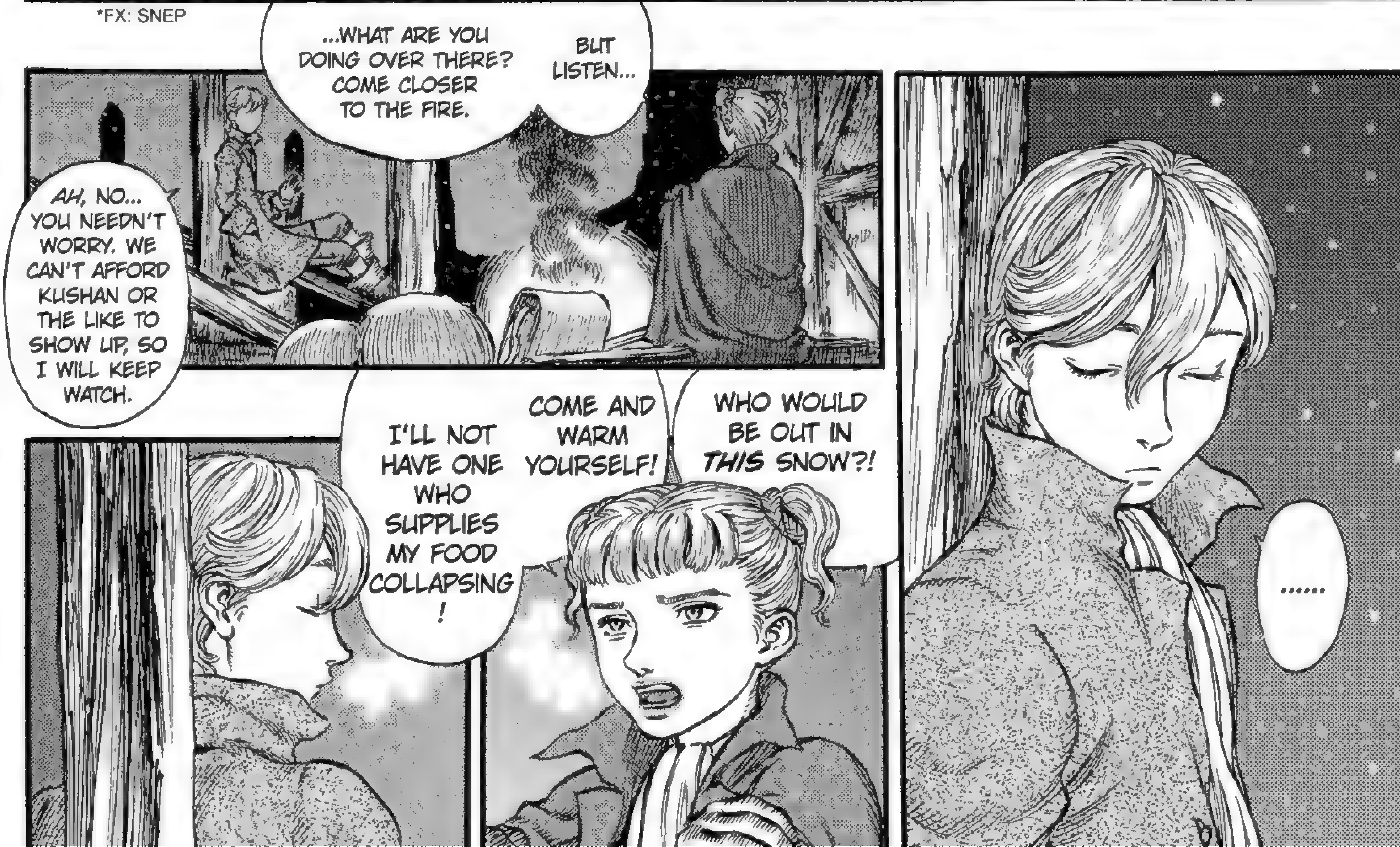
雪と炎と／前篇

BERSERK

THANK GOODNESS WE FOUND A PLACE WHERE THE SNOW AND WIND ARE TOLERABLE FOR THE TIME BEING.
IT IS NICE NOT TO HAVE TO MOVE WITH SO MANY PEOPLE-- NICE AND QUIET.
IT TRULY FEELS LIKE A JOURNEY.


HOW SO?
IT'S COLD.
WE'RE HUNGRY.
NONE OF IT IS NICE.
THEN SHALL WE RETURN TO THE HOLY CITY?
GIVE UP ON THE BLACK SWORDSMAN?
I HAVE NO SUCH INTENTION.
DO YOU SUGGEST I REPORT TO THE COURT SUPREME THAT THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS AND REFUGEES WERE SWALLOWED BY MONSTERS?
FORGET REASSIGNMENT. WE MIGHT ACTUALLY END UP BEING TRIED AS HERETICS!
WONDER IF THE VICE-COMMANDER'S OKAY.
HE'S AN OVERLY LITERAL MAN.
BESIDES...
...I NO LONGER CARE...
...TO RETURN TO THAT MANSION.
パチ

*FX: SNEP


BUT LISTEN...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING OVER THERE? COME CLOSER TO THE FIRE.
AH, NO... YOU NEEDN'T WORRY. WE CAN'T AFFORD KUSHAN OR THE LIKE TO SHOW UP, SO I WILL KEEP WATCH.
WHO WOULD BE OUT IN THIS SNOW?!
COME AND WARM YOURSELF!
I'LL NOT HAVE ONE WHO SUPPLIES MY FOOD COLLAPSING!
......

?
IT WAS A SNOWY NIGHT JUST LIKE THIS WHEN I HAPPENED TO MEET LADY FARNESE.
UGH... FIRE.
COLD AND HUNGER CALL FORTH THAT CHILDHOOD DAY.
BEAT IT!
HYA HA HA!
ド
*FX: DOSH
FROM NOW ON *WE'RE* THE ONES WHO SAY WHO GETS FOOD AROUND HERE! RUNTS LIKE YOU DON'T GET A SHARE!
NOW GET LOST!
*WHACK

*KRUNK
JOHN!
YOU LITTLE...!
IGH!
S...
STO--
*FX: WHOCK WHACK
HEEEE...!
*HAHH
*HAHH
*HAHH
THIS IS THE HOLY CITY.
W-WAIT...
WAHHH!
THE CAPITAL WHERE GOD DWELLS.
THE MYRIAD TOWERS ASPIRE TO PRAISE GOD.
*GONNNG
THE BELLS RESOUND HIS GLORY.
*GONNNG
*GONNNG
HERE, EVERYTHING EXISTS FOR GOD, AND ALL IS OFFERED UP TO HIM.
FOR THOSE WITH NOTHING TO OFFER...
...THIS CITY COULD PROVE TO BE A HARSH PLACE.
*FX: KREE
IN A ROTTING HOVEL ON THE EDGE OF SAID CITY...
...I SPENT MY YOUTH TOGETHER WITH IT...
*FX: KREEEE
A DIM ROOM AT THE REAR OF THE SECOND FLOOR...
OPENING THAT DOOR WAS ALWAYS DEPRESSING.

EMACIATED TO SKIN AND BONES BY ILLNESS...
...IT REMINDED THE YOUNG ME OF DEATH.
I HAVE YOUR MEAL, MOTHER.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? WHILE YOUR MOTHER SUFFERS HERE SO...
MY BACK ACHES. RUB IT FOR ME.
HER PROTRUDING, TWISTED SPINE AND RIBS...
...MADE HER SEEM LIKE SOME STRANGE MONSTER.
HOW DID YOU GET THOSE BRUISES?
OH, UM, I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH BOYS IN TOWN...
YOU ARE AN ARISTOCRAT!
FIGHTING WITH COMMONERS IS ABSURD!
YOU MUST HAVE PRIDE!

YOU ALONE ARE MY HOPE.
ヒューヒュー *HHH HHH
SOMEDAY YOUR FATHER WILL COME FOR US.
YOU MUST HAVE THE PRIDE OF AN ARISTOCRAT SO YOU DON'T DISAPPOINT HIM WHEN THAT DAY COMES.
YOU MUSTN'T GET TOO EXCITED, MOTHER. YOU WILL SUFFER ANOTHER COUGHING SPELL.
I GIVE THIS TO YOU...
"HAVE PRIDE."
SHE REPEATED THAT DELIRIOUSLY LIKE SOME MANTRA.
APPARENTLY, LONG AGO, SHE WORKED AS A MAID IN A CERTAIN NOBLEMAN'S MANSION.
SHE SAID AT THE END OF THE HONEYMOON WITH HIM SHE WAS BLESSED WITH ME.
CARRY IT WITH YOU ALWAYS.
PERHAPS ONE DAY IT WILL PROVE YOUR CLAIM.
SO I AM THE BASTARD SON OF A NOBLEMAN.
MOTHER CLUNG TO HER SWEET MEMORIES...
...AND LIVED VICARIOUSLY BY BURDENING ME WITH HER DREAM.
IT SEEMED SHE COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE...
...HOW IN THE WORLD A CHILD NOT EVEN TEN HAD TO MANAGE TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND HIS MOTHER ON HER SICKBED.
YOU OWE MY BROTHER ONE FOR YESTERDAY.
EVERY DAY MOTHER FORCED ME TO BEAR MORE PRIDE THAN I EVER COULD.
BEAT HIM HALF TO DEATH!
AND EVERY DAY THE CITY ROBBED ME OF THAT PRIDE COMPLETELY.

BEFORE I KNEW IT, I'D LOST ALL EXPRESSION...
...AND NO LONGER FELT ANYTHING.
*FX: GONNNG
ゴ
I CAN'T MOVE.
AT THIS RATE I'LL BE BURIED IN SNOW...
*GONNNG
ゴーーッ
MAYBE THAT'S JUST AS WELL...
*GONNNG
ゴーーッ
MIGHT BE EASIER...
ゴーーッ
*GONNNG
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
....
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
*CLATA
ガラ
THE SOUND OF WHEELS...
!
STOP!
*CLATA
ガラ
STOP THE CARRIAGE!
MY LADY?!
バタン
*BTAM
*SHFF
ザッ

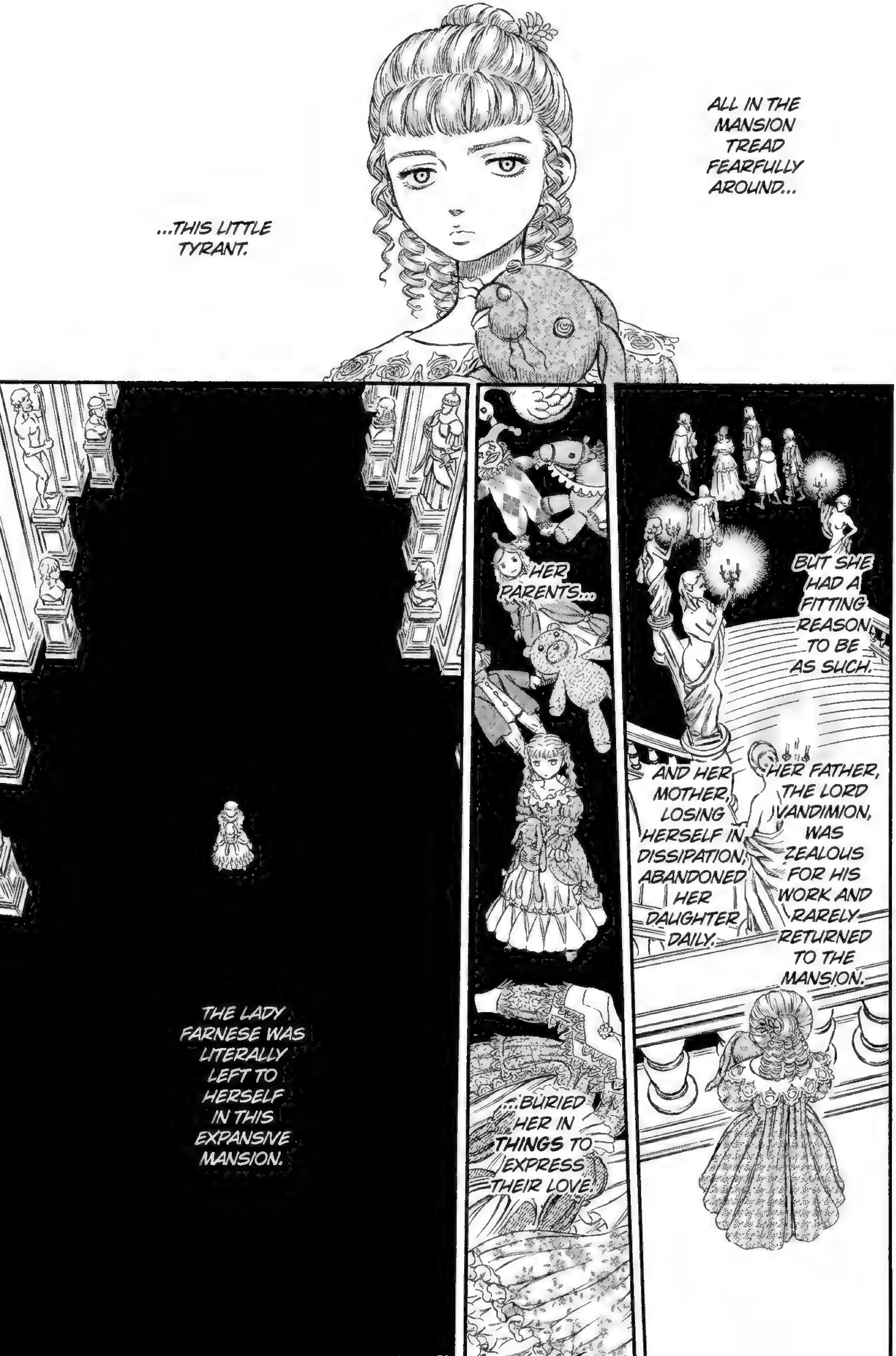
HEH...
I KNEW AT A GLANCE.
"ARISTOCRAT."
THE WORD WAS A CURSE TO ME.
WHAT GAZED DOWN ON ME WAS, UNLIKE MYSELF, NO IMPOSTER. A GENUINE DAUGHTER OF NOBILITY...
PERFECT FROM HER HEAD TO HER TOES.
SILLY RABBIT ...
INSOLENT WHELP!
*GISH
ゲシ
...
WHAT IS IT, MY LADY? WE WILL BE LATE FOR HOLY COMMUNION.
!
WHAT IS IT? IS THIS FILTHY CHILD DYING IN THE STREET?
...
HOLY COMMUNION CAN WAIT.
PUT THAT BOY IN THE CARRIAGE. WE'RE TAKING HIM TO THE MANSION.
M'LADY ?

MY LADY, *WE* SHALL SEE TO HIM...
NO, YOU SHALL *NOT*!
I WILL LOOK AFTER THIS BOY!
ALL OF YOU MAY LEAVE!
SO SHE THINKS SHE'S FOUND A WOUNDED PUPPY OR SOMETHING...
ベジョ
HEED THIS.
I AM THE ONE WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE...
...SO YOU NOW BELONG TO *ME*.
AT THE TIME, IT WAS BEYOND...
PLEDGE YOURSELF.
...MY ABILITY TO FATHOM.
BUT THANKS TO THAT...
AT A NOBLE MANSION?
WHAT IS THE NAME?
I WAS SO EXCITED, I FAILED TO ASK.
...I WAS ABLE TO FIND UNEXPECTED EMPLOYMENT.
NOW I'D BE LIBERATED FROM THIS MELANCHOLY MONSTER.
I WAS TOLD I WOULD LIVE AND WORK THERE, STARTING TOMORROW.
I WOULD BE LYING IF I SAID IT DIDN'T LIFT MY HEART.
DO NOT WORRY-- MY WAGES WILL ALLOW ME TO HIRE A HOUSEKEEPER TO CARE FOR YOU.
ALTHOUGH HEARING WHAT SHE SAID...
THIS IS YOUR ONE CHANCE TO TOUCH NOBLE SOCIETY.
SERVE THEM WELL.
...I BECAME AWARE OF MY SIN.

*FX: PLACH

*FX: PECH

HOUSE VANDIMION. ITS ASSETS ARE RUMORED TO SURPASS THE BUDGET OF AN EMINENT NATION. ITS BLOODLINE IS APPARENT IN THE ROYAL FAMILIES OF SEVERAL KINGDOMS. IT IS THE NOBLE FAMILY OF NOBLE FAMILIES, CENTERED IN THE HOLY CITY AND BOASTING TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE EVEN IN THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY.
LOOKING AT IT AGAIN, IT'S HUGE!
BUT I WAS TOO YOUNG TO COMPREHEND SUCH SIGNIFICANCE.
STARTING TODAY, YOU'RE MY PERSONAL PAGE.
YOU ARE TO OBEY ME ABSOLUTELY. SERVE ME WELL.
YES, LADY FARNESE.
I WAS RELEASED FROM THOSE ABOMINABLE DAYS.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND...
...I WAS ABLE TO BROOK...
...THE SOMEWHAT...
...UNREASONABLE COMMANDS...
...OF MY NEW MISTRESS.
POOR THING.
YOU PUT UP WITH IT WELL.
YOU SAY YOU FELL OFF A HORSE?
YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME BROKEN BONES.
ALL OF LADY FARNESE'S SERVANTS GET FED UP WITH HER DISPOSITION AND RUN OFF.
SHE EVEN SET FIRE TO ONE GIRL'S DRESS, BADLY BURNING HER.
MIND YOU DON'T GO AND PUT THE YOUNG MISTRESS IN A FOUL MOOD.
...


ALL IN THE MANSION TREAD FEARFULLY AROUND...
...THIS LITTLE TYRANT.
BUT SHE HAD A FITTING REASON TO BE AS SUCH.
HER FATHER, THE LORD VANDIMION, WAS ZEALOUS FOR HIS WORK AND RARELY RETURNED TO THE MANSION.
AND HER MOTHER, LOSING HERSELF IN DISSIPATION, ABANDONED HER DAUGHTER DAILY.
HER PARENTS...
...BURIED HER IN THINGS TO EXPRESS THEIR LOVE.
THE LADY FARNESE WAS LITERALLY LEFT TO HERSELF IN THIS EXPANSIVE MANSION.

THE SOLEMN STATUES LOOKED DOWN UPON HER.
A GRAVE AND GLOOMY LABYRINTH.
WHILE THERE WERE DOZENS OF SERVANTS EMPLOYED...
...SHE WOULD RARELY PASS EVEN ONE OF THEM.
IN THIS HUGE PRISON...
...SHE LIVED ALONE, AS SHE SAW FIT.
YOU WILL CATCH COLD.
SOMETHING ABOUT IT REMINDED ME OF THE...
...MELANCHOLY HOVEL IN WHICH MOTHER AND I LIVED.
MAYBE IT WAS NOT MERE PITY AND SELFISHNESS... MAYBE WE BOTH SENSED THE SAME SCENT UPON ONE ANOTHER.

ONE STORMY NIGHT...
LISTEN TO ME. YOU WILL STAY HERE ALL NIGHT AND HOLD MY HAND.
YES, MILADY.
EEEK!! NOOO!!
LADY FARNESE, IT IS ALL RIGHT.
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT THUNDER!!
BUT I CANNOT...
EEEEEEK!
!
EEEK!
OH, NO!
THE WINDOW...!!
!
LADY FARNESE!!
LADY FARNESE, WHERE ARE YOU...?!
!

*FX: FLASH

*FX: WHOOOOO

*FX: BRMMMBLLE

*FX: CRASSSH

*FX: RUN

*FX: GOHHHH

THERE IN THE STORM...
...SHE WAS DANCING IN CIRCLES, CRYING OUT IN A QUEER VOICE THAT WAS NEITHER A SCREAM NOR A LAUGH.
SOMETHING GHASTLY COMPELLED HER...
*FX: AHA HA HA HA
*CRASSSH
LADY FARNESE!!
?!
IT'S A STORM!!
YOU JUST NEED TO BECOME A STORM YOURSELF!!
IT WAS THIS ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR THAT...
...REPULSED THE PEOPLE AROUND HER.

ONE TIME...
...SHE LED ME INTO THE WOODS BEHIND THE MANSION.
THERE, DEEP IN THE FOREST...
...EXISTED A TINY CLEARING.
SUDDENLY I REALIZED THAT SCATTERED AROUND US...
?
...WERE WHAT LOOKED LIKE THE BONES OF SMALL ANIMALS...
FETCH ME SOME TWIGS.
......
THIS SMALL BIRD...
JUST RECENTLY LADY FARNESE HAD BEEN DOTING UPON IT.
*FX: CHEEP
LADY FARNESE ...?
IT WOULDN'T BECOME ATTACHED TO ME AT ALL.
FOR BUT A MOMENT, IT FLUTTERED FURIOUSLY, AND CRIED OUT...
...THEN BEFORE LONG FELL INTO SILENCE.

THIS IS MY CREMATORY.
MY HOLY ALTAR.
I BURN ALL THE BAD ONES HERE.
SHE SPOKE ABSORBEDLY...
THAT STORY ABOUT THE BURNED SERVANT WASN'T A LIE.
...HER SMILE ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES.
IT WAS AS IF...
...IN DOING THIS, SHE INTENDED TO FRIGHTEN PEOPLE AND DRIVE THEM AWAY.
BUT...
...THEN WHY...?
THE PLAZA OVERLOOKED BY LADY FARNESE'S BEDROOM.
IT WAS USED FOR STAKE BURNINGS DURING THE HEIGHT OF AN INQUISITION.
I HEARD THAT WHEN SHE WAS YOUNGER...
...SHE WENT OUT AND THREW TORCHES PERSONALLY.
I SUPPOSE SHE WAS ALONE IN THIS DARKNESS, LIT ONLY THROUGH THE WINDOWS BY THE FLICKERING FLAMES.

FATHERRR!
ONE SNOWY DAY, THE MASTER OF THE MANSION RETURNED HOME. IT HAD BEEN OVER A YEAR SINCE I WAS HIRED, BUT THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I HAD SEEN HIM.
JUST A MINUTE, FARNESE.
I WAS JUST DISCUSSING BUSINESS.
YES, FATHER.
OH?
WHAT IS THAT FILTHY DOLL?
EH?
THROW THAT OUT.
I CAN ORDER AS MANY NEW ONES AS YOU'D LIKE. ANYWAY, RUN ALONG FOR RIGHT NOW.
AH...
UH... UH...
YES...
... FATHER.
LADY FARNESE?
ACCORDING TO MY FELLOW SERVANTS...
...YEARS AGO, THE ONE TIME THAT THE FAMILY TOOK A TRIP TOGETHER...
...LADY FARNESE NAGGED HER FATHER TO BUY THAT RABBIT FOR HER.
IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A PRECIOUS MEMENTO.
... ...
LADY ...
パチ
*SNAP
GO AWAY.

I'LL BURN ...
...YOU UP AS WELL.
SHE IS AFRAID. AFRAID OF BEING LEFT ALL ALONE IN THIS VAST PRISON...
SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE INJURES THEM. SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE ESTRANGES THEM.
SHE IS AFRAID, SO SHE IS DESPERATE TO BE THE ONE WHO IS FEARED.
BEFORE A CHILD CAN EVER GRASP FOR HAPPINESS...
...HE MUST BURY THAT PART OF HIMSELF, ADAPTING TO REALITY.
HOWEVER, BEFORE LONG...
...HIS TRUE SELF VANISHES...
...AS THE SNOW...
...PILES UP IN THE LABYRINTH.

ONE TIME I WAS HALTED BY THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE.
WHAT IS IT, MASTER?
WHAT IS THAT HANGING FROM YOUR NECK...?
THIS?
LET ME SEE IT CLOSELY.
I THOUGHT HE WOULD ACCUSE ME OF STEALING IT.
OH, I THOUGHT SO...
IT CONTAINED AN INLAID PICTURE OF MY YOUNG MOTHER AND FATHER.
THUS...
...I CAME TO MEET HIM.
THERE WAS NOTHING ESPECIALLY MOVING ABOUT IT FOR ME.
HE'S THE ONE...
IT WAS RATHER UNDERWHELMING.

HOWEVER, THE TRUTH THAT LADY FARNESE WAS MY YOUNGER HALF-SISTER...
...SHOOK ME MORE THAN A LITTLE.
FATHER SAID THAT THERE WERE THREE MEN--MY HALF-BROTHERS--EACH VYING TO SUCCEED HIM AS HEAD OF THE FAMILY.
HE EXPLAINED THAT, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY MORE USELESS SQUABBLING, THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD ALLOW ME, AS A BASTARD, TO ASSUME THE FAMILY NAME, VANDIMION.
IF I PROMISED TO PROTECT THE SECRET THENCEFORTH, I WOULD BE GRANTED A TITLE OF NOBILITY...
...AND MY CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN AN APPROPRIATE FASHION.
WOULD YOU...
...BE WILLING TO MEET WITH MY MOTHER?
IN TIME...
A POLITE DISMISSAL...
WITH SO MANY ASSETS, FINDING ME AND MOTHER SHOULD HAVE BEEN TRIVIAL.
IT IS GOD'S GUIDANCE...!
MY POOR MOTHER...

I ACCEPTED FATHER'S CONDITIONS.
VERY WELL.
I HOPED TO REMAIN IN THIS MANSION.
HONESTLY, I'M QUITE AT A LOSS AS CONCERNS FARNESE. SHE FEIGNS INNOCENCE BEFORE ME...
...BUT I HEAR FROM THOSE IN THE MANSION THAT THEIR LIVES HAVE BEEN MADE MUCH EASIER SINCE YOU BECAME HER COMPANION.
THAT WAS WHAT THE FATHER WHO SAW HER ONLY ONCE ALL YEAR SAID SHAMELESSLY.
WE DO NOT HAVE THE POWER NOW TO MELT THE SNOW THAT LIES THICK ABOUT US.
PERHAPS WE WANTED MERELY TO FEEL THE WARMTH IN EACH OTHER, A WARMTH WE HAD IN COMMON.

OF SNOW AND FLAME

FINAL ACT

雪と炎と／後篇

BERSERK

TIME PASSED WITHIN THE LABYRINTH.
AND WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE, TREES BEGIN TO EXTEND...
...THEIR BRANCHES BEYOND THEIR MINIATURE GARDEN...
THE TWO SAPLINGS BENEATH THE SNOWY DRIFT BECAME BENT AND ENTWINED AS THEY GREW...
...BEARING CURIOUS FRUIT.
LADY FARNESE, IF YOU WOULD JOIN ME FOR THIS DANCE.
LADY FARNESE.
RATHER, WOULD YOU WITH ME...
EXCUSE ME.
SERPICO, BE MY PARTNER.

SO MUCH FOR THAT.
SHE IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE.
IS SHE AGAIN GOING TO DANCE WITH NONE BUT HER ESCORT?
EVERYONE AIMS TO BE CLOSE TO HER.
THEY'RE ALL DESPERATE TO GET UNDER THE VANDIMION UMBRELLA.
WHO IS HE, ANYWAY?
I HEARD...
...HE BELONGS TO THE PEERAGE BUT WAS ORIGINALLY LADY FARNESE'S PAGE.
HE WAS BORN **COMMON**?!
*SWAP
!
LADY FARNESE?
IT SEEMS HER FATHER, LORD VANDIMION HIMSELF, IS HIS SPONSOR. HE SURE PICKED THE RIGHT PLACE TO WORM INTO.
I'LL ***NOT*** FORGIVE YOU FOR INSULTING MY COMPANION!!
LADY...
A DUEL!!
HOWEVER, AS I AM A LADY, THE VERY ONE YOU INSULTED SHALL BE YOUR OPPONENT.
*TUG
I KNEW IT...
*CHING
*CHING

OH!
WELL, THEN... I GUESS THIS IS A DRAW.
VERY WELL FOUGHT.
COME NOW.
YOUR SKILLS BELIE YOUR COMMON ORIGIN. NO WONDER, AS YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE GUARD FOR YOUNG LADY VANDIMION.
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY EARLIER IMPOLITENESS, LADY FARNESE.
……….
*FX: BLASH
THIS WOUND IS LAST WEEK'S.
THIS AND THIS ARE FROM LAST MONTH.

*GRIND
AT THIS RATE, YOU'LL ONE DAY BE LIKE A RAGDOLL.
WHY WON'T YOU FIGHT *SERIOUSLY* ?
YOUR SWORD SKILLS SHOULD'VE BEEN ENOUGH TO WIN ANY OF THOSE DUELS EASILY!
NOT AT ALL.
YOU GIVE ME *TOO* MUCH CREDIT.
HMPH ...
FINE, THEN.
YOU MAY BE MORE EXCITING ...
...AS A RAGDOLL.
*CHOMP
SINCE WHEN WAS IT...
...THAT DESPITE HER BENT SHAPE, LADY FARNESE CAME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME BEYOND THOSE OF A MISTRESS FOR HER SERVANT ?

MAYBE THAT WAS A NATURAL THING, RATHER...
...FOR THE TWO RAISED IN THE CRADLE OF THE LITTLE GARDEN.
*HYNN HYNN
WHEN I WAS A CHILD IN THIS CITY, I WAS TAUGHT TO THE POINT OF REVULSION THAT RETRIBUTION IS A FOOLISHNESS THAT INCURS ONLY RETRIBUTION.
THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE LADY FARNESE'S HONOR, WITHOUT SOWING DISCORD...
...
THAT YEAR IN THE HOLY CITY...
...I OFTEN CAUGHT SIGHT OF WAIFS.

MOTHER'S CONDITION PROGRESSED...
...AND I HAD TO SEND HER TO A SANITARIUM.
SHE NO LONGER ...
...EVEN KNEW...
...WHO I WAS.
AHH, DEAR HUSBAND.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
THAT SEVERITY ...
...HAD VANISHED FROM HER FACE.
IN THE END, FATHER NEVER ONCE CAME TO SEE HER.
GAZING AWAY AT A DREAM...
...IN TIME SHE CAME TO LIVE WITHIN THAT DREAM. THIS MUST HAVE RELIEVED HER...
THE MASTER OF THE HOUSE CAME BACK AFTER SEVERAL YEARS.
MARRIAGE?
B...
BUT ... ...SO SOON?!
YOU OBJECT?
I'M DOING THIS FOR YOUR SAKE, FARNESE.
I'VE HEARD TELL EVERY TIME YOU GO TO A BALL, A DUEL ENSUES.
IT SEEMS THAT I HAVE NOT INTERVENED ENOUGH IN THE LIFE OF MY ONLY DAUGHTER.
BEING SIXTEEN, YOU MUST ASSUME THE DIGNITY OF A LADY.
AH ...
UH ...
FA ...
YOUR FIANCÉ IS A CERTAIN GENEROUS MEMBER OF ROYALTY WHO HAS ACCEPTED THIS PROPOSAL DESPITE BEING AWARE OF YOUR NEGATIVE BEHAVIOR.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, BUT THIS IS ALSO FOR THE SAKE OF THE VANDIMION FAMILY. YOU DO UNDERSTAND?

YES...
...FATHER.
CURIOUS FRUIT, LEFT TO BE RAISED BY ANOTHER. BUT WHEN IT IS RIPE, THE ONE WHO PICKS IT IS THE OWNER OF THE FOREST.
LADY FARNEEESE.

LADY ...
!
NO...
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE.
OUTSIDE ...
I CAN'T LIVE ANYWHERE OTHER THAN HERE.
BUT...
IF YOU WERE TO TAKE ME AND RUN AWAY...

BECAUSE YOU...
...AND I ARE...
...BENT TOGETHER...
......
*PUSH
グイ！

FATHER'S, MOTHER'S, SIBLINGS'...
WHY WAS I NOW UNABLE TO ESCAPE...
...FROM ALL THE YOKES THAT BOUND US...?
A FIRE ...!!
THE MANSION ...!!
THE YOUNG MISTRESS HAS GONE MAD!
*AHA HA HA HA HA
!

ONE OF THE MANSION'S HOUSES BURNED DOWN IN THE FIRE.
THAT FOOLISH DAUGHTER.
TO THINK SHE COULD GO **SO** FAR.
I PERMIT ABSOLUTELY ***NO ONE*** TO HEAR OF THIS.
IT WOULD SMEAR THE VANDIMION NAME IN MUD.
THE WEDDING IS CALLED OFF.
LADY FARNESE WAS SENT TO A MONASTERY.
SHE'S A ***DEVIL CHILD.***
I CANNOT ***DEAL*** WITH HER.
ON THE MASTER'S ORDERS I WAS SENT AS WELL TO LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD AND TO OBSERVE HER.
UNDESIGNEDLY, HER WISH HAD COME TRUE...
...BUT EVER SINCE THAT DAY, THERE WAS NO LONGER ANYTHING BETWEEN...
...LADY FARNESE AND MYSELF BUT A MISTRESS-SERVANT. RELATIONSHIP.

DAYS WERE SPENT IN TRANQUIL DIALOGUE WITH GOD...
...BUT THE VANDIMION NAME...
...DID NOT LONG AFFORD HER SUCH LEISURE.
OH, HOW GALLANT.
IT IS TRADITION THAT THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS *BE* A LADY...
...BUT HOW GRAND FOR IT TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF THE *GLORIOUS* VANDIMION FAMILY.
WE ENTRUST TO YOU THIS DUTY.
YOUR VICE-COMMANDER, *AZAN,* WILL SEE TO ALL PRACTICAL MATTERS, SO YOU NEED NOT WORRY.
YOU SHOULD FIND YOU MAY ASK HIM MANY THINGS REGARDING A KNIGHT'S FRAME OF MIND.
IT IS AN HONOR TO MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
MHMM.

THEN, BY CHANCE, THAT WINTER...
...RAMPANT HERETICS BEGAN SETTING FIRES TO TEMPLES AND MANSIONS OF THE NOBILITY.
EVEN THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, WHO WERE PRIMARILY CEREMONIAL GUARDS...
...WERE SENT TO COMPULSORILY CAPTURE AND SUPPRESS THE HERETICS.
AS IF POSSESSED, LADY FARNESE...
...TOOK PERSONAL CHARGE OF ROUNDING UP THE HERETICS.
THAT RUNDOWN BUILDING! ALL FORCES, CHARGE!!
THAT DILIGENT DISCHARGE OF DUTY...
...WAS ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN THE COURT SUPREME MARVEL.
......

LADY FARNESE'S EXPRESSION, ILLUMINATED BY THE FLAMES.
IT WAS THE ONE FROM THAT TIME.
FLAMES...
THEY SCORCHED HER HEART.
THE FUNDAMENT OF HER CHILDHOOD...
PERHAPS LADY FARNESE...
...HAD FOUND THE PLACE SHE BELONGED.

HERETICS. THEY WEREN'T "DEVIL WORSHIPERS."
THEY WERE MEMBERS OF A HERETICAL SECT.
THEY PROTESTED AGAINST THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD BEING MONOPOLIZED BY THE CHURCH AND NOBILITY.
THEY PREACHED "ALL ARE EQUAL IN THE EYES OF GOD."
IT WAS DENOUNCED AS HERESY BY THE HOLY SEE.
THE OPPRESSION AGAINST THOSE WHO THREATENED THEIR SOCIAL STATUS AND AUTHORITY REACHED THE EXTREMES OF VIOLENCE.
IF EVEN ONE RELATIVE WAS EXPOSED AS A HERETIC, AN ENTIRE FAMILY WOULD BE COERCED INTO A TRIAL.
IN REALITY IT MEANT AN ENTIRE FAMILY WIPED OUT.
NEARLY ALL WHO WERE ARRESTED...
...WERE POOR THIRD-CLASS CITIZENS...
...WHO LACKED EVEN THEIR DAILY BREAD.
THEY WERE...
...WHO I ONCE WAS.
BUT NO GRUESOME SPECTACLE I WITNESSED...
...COULD MANAGE TO SHAKE MY HEART...

...UNTIL THEN...
WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO STRIKE THEIR HEADQUARTERS. WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A SANITARIUM WOULD BE THEIR DEN?
WELL DONE, LADY FARNESE.
MO-THER...

HN? WHAT DID HE JUST SAY?
WHY?
OH, GOD ...
WHY IS SHE HERE?
SERPICO?
THIS IS SOME KIND OF MISTAKE. I MEAN, MOTHER...
ドクン
*BADUMP
MOTHER NO LONGER ...
...UNDERSTANDS ANYTHING ...
ドクン
*BADUMP
...!
ドクン
*BADUMP
MOTHER ...
!
DID HE JUST SAY "MOTHER?"
IS YOUR MOTHER AMONG THOSE?

A RELATIVE OF A MEMBER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, A *HERETIC*...?!
THAT WOULD BE *IMPOSSIBLE*!!
WELL YES, BUT HE DID JUST...
IF THIS IS TRUE, IT CONSTITUTES A MAJOR PROBLEM.
IS IT...
...BECAUSE I LEFT YOU ALL ALONE IN THAT HOUSE...?
IS IT MY FAULT...?
OHH!
DEAR HUSBAND.
I CHANCED TO MEET FATHER, AND JOINED THE PEERAGE AS YOU WISHED.
BUT WAS NOT YOUR WISH FULFILLED THANKS TO THAT DECISION?
HAVE YOU BEEN DESPONDENT NONETHELESS SINCE?
OH, HOW LONG IT HAS BEEN.
ISOLATED... CLINGING TO GOD WHILE LIVING IN YOUR DREAM WORLD...

I HATED YOU. I SOMETIMES WISHED FOR YOUR DEATH SO I MIGHT ESCAPE YOUR YOKE.
HAS OUR SON BEEN OF USE TO YOU?
HE HAS NOT DONE ANYTHING TO DISGRACE THE FAMILY NAME?
IS THAT THE REASON?
IS THIS...
...YOUR REVENGE?
YOU THROW THE TORCH.
FAR--!

PROVE IT TO ME.
PROVE SHE'S NOT YOUR MOTHER.
SWEAR IT ONCE MORE.
I AM YOUR MISTRESS.
ONLY I.
ALWAYS, NOW...
...AND FOREVER.
WHAT DID...
...WE BURY AND HIDE?

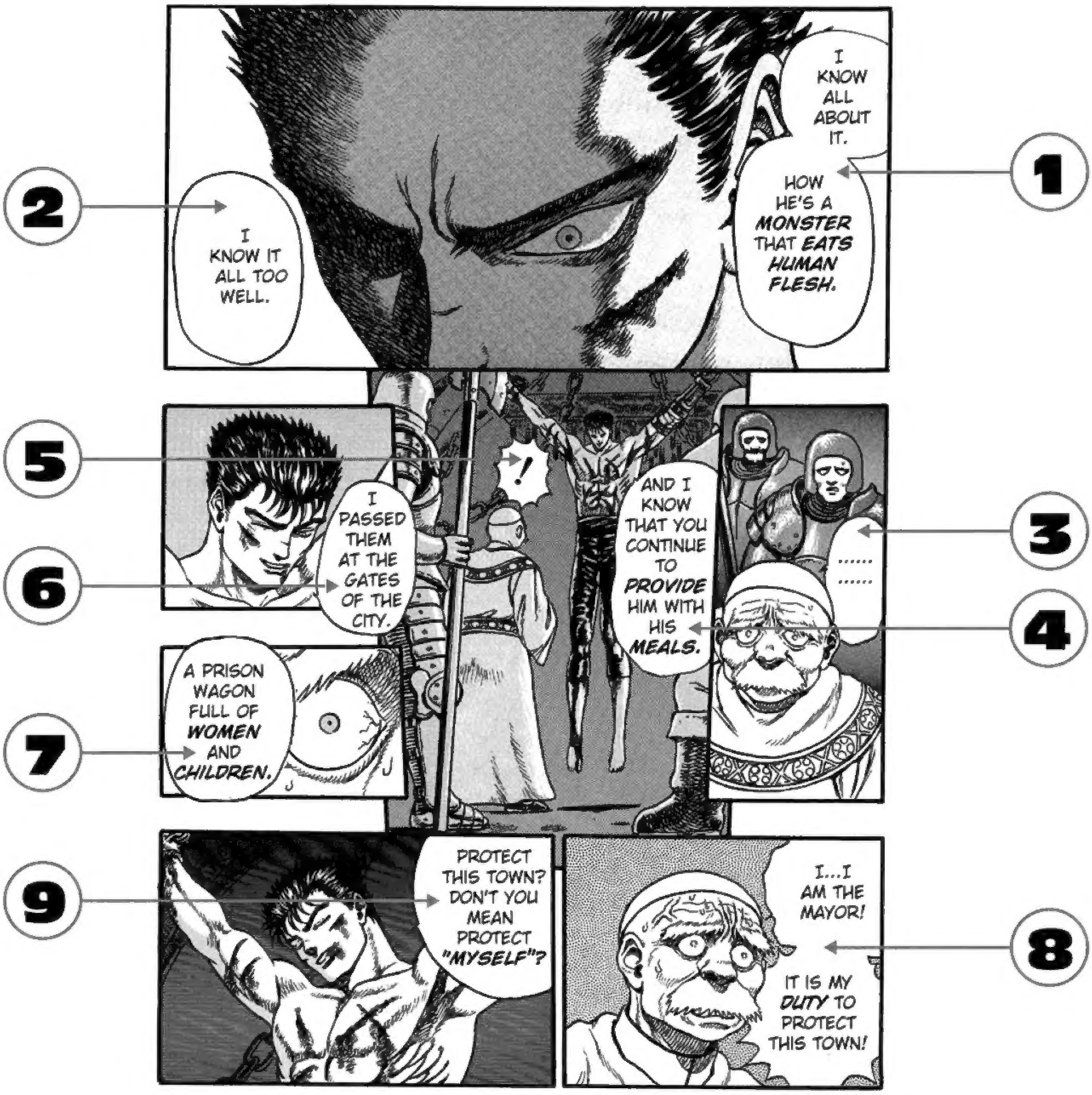
WHAT DID WE BURN TO ASHES?
WHAT WERE WE DELIVERED FROM?
WHAT WERE WE ENCHAINED BY?

THE THIRD WINTER SINCE THEN.
THAT MANSION...
...THAT HOLY CITY...
...IS PROBABLY BURIED IN SNOW AGAIN.
WE LEFT THAT LABYRINTH WE NEVER THOUGHT WE WOULD ESCAPE...
...AND NOW WE'RE BENEATH THE SKY OF A LONG JOURNEY.
THE SNOWFALL'S SURRENDERING. LET'S DEPART.
LADY FARNESE WILL FOLLOW THAT BLACK SWORDSMAN.
AS IF TRYING TO MELT THE SNOW WITH SOME FLAME.
UPON THE SNOW...
...THE FOOTPRINTS ALONE CONTINUE ON.

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!


1
I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.
HOW HE'S A *MONSTER* THAT *EATS HUMAN FLESH.*
2
I KNOW IT ALL TOO WELL.
3
....
4
AND I KNOW THAT YOU CONTINUE TO *PROVIDE* HIM WITH HIS *MEALS.*
5
!
6
I PASSED THEM AT THE GATES OF THE CITY.
7
A PRISON WAGON FULL OF *WOMEN* AND *CHILDREN.*
8
I...I AM THE MAYOR!
IT IS MY *DUTY* TO PROTECT THIS TOWN!
9
PROTECT THIS TOWN? DON'T YOU MEAN PROTECT *"MYSELF"*?

COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA

22

ベルセルク

三浦建太郎

The world of Guts, the Black Swordsman, is changing in a hurry. Though a demonic maelstrom has leveled the dreaded Tower of Conviction and ended the reign of terror of its grand inquisitor, Mozgus, peace has not returned to Midland. The Tower's fall has heralded the unexpected return of Griffith, Guts' former leader, last seen transformed from a shattered husk into one of the demon lords of the Godhand. But Griffith looks like his old self again—and with his dreams of carving out a kingdom by his own hand still intact. He's raising a new Band of the Hawk, but this time he's recruiting from the dark side to fulfill his deadly destiny!

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a towering manga monolith, a crushing slab of bone-rattling action, teeth-chattering horror, and rule-breaking humor that has conscripted thousands into its legion of the damned and tossed the unbelievers from the battlements. Awake the iron!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS